

THE TIMES

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Rosemary West is found guilty of three murders



Rosemary West, broke down after verdicts

By BILL PROST AND RICHARD DUCE

ROSEMARY WEST was last night facing three life sentences after being convicted of murdering her daughter, her step-daughter and her late husband's lover.

The stout, bespectacled Gloucester housewife, 41, appeared to sob quietly as she heard the jury foreman deliver the unanimous verdicts at Winchester Crown Court. The jury then left to spend a second night in a hotel and will return today to consider verdicts on seven outstanding murder charges.

There were gasps in the packed public gallery in the hushed and tense No 3 court as the jury returned the first two verdicts at 3.07 pm.

Mrs West appeared calm and composed when the foreman pronounced her guilty of murdering Charmaine, who had just turned eight when she died, and Heather, her oldest daughter, aged 16. Charmaine West's two aunts — Isobel Prentice and May Lappin — were led crying from the public gallery.

The jury was sent out again by the judge, and just more than an hour an hour later returned to pronounce a unanimous guilty verdict on the murder of Shirley Anne Robinson, 18, who was pregnant with Frederick West's child.

Mrs West broke down and for the first time since the trial began she failed to bow to the judge, Mr Justice Mantell, before being escorted from the dock to her cell below.

She stole a brief glance at the jury of seven men and four women who had decided that she had lied about what happened to her three victims.

Mrs West had claimed during the trial that Charmaine returned to live with her natural mother in Scotland when in fact the child had been murdered and buried beneath the couple's former home at 25, Midland Road, Gloucester, in 1971. Mrs West killed the girl while her husband was serving a prison term.

The court had heard that before her death, Charmaine was brutally abused. Mrs West had written to her husband in prison saying that the child liked to be "handled rough". Seven years later she was to

murder Shirley Robinson, an 18-year-old lodger made pregnant by Frederick West. Her remains were unearthed in the garden of 25 Cromwell Street, along with those of an eight-month-old foetus.

Mrs West later lied when asked by fellow lodgers what had become of the young woman. She said that Shirley, whom she regarded as a rival for her husband's affections, had gone to live with her father in Germany. Nine years later Mrs West murdered again.

This time it was to be her own eldest daughter, Heather. Her remains were the first to be found when police began digging up the garden of Cromwell Street in February 1994. The teenager had been decapitated and some of her bones

were missing from the shallow grave.

Earlier in the trial the jury heard a taped confession by Frederick West that he alone had killed both Charmaine and Heather. He told detectives after his arrest last year that he strangled Charmaine after killing the child's mother, Rena Costello, his first wife. Her remains were found in a field near Much Marcle, where he was brought up.

The court also heard him take sole responsibility for the murder of his daughter Heather in 1987. He said his wife was out shopping when he strangled and dismembered the girl. He sent her to stay with another man that night while he buried the body.

However, Brian Leveson QC, for

the prosecution, told the jury that the confession had been bogus. The couple had acted jointly in the killing. The Wests lied to neighbours at the time Heather vanished, saying she had run away from home and was living with a lesbian.

There had been growing friction between the teenager and her parents in the months before the murder, the court heard. They feared she was set to tell police or others what she knew about life inside 25 Cromwell Street.

Mrs West had denied all ten charges. Her husband Frederick West was found hanged in his cell at Winson Green prison in Birmingham last New Year's Day.

Face haunted trial, page 5

Palace offers support for Princess

Prince urged to end feud with divorce

By ALAN HAMILTON AND PHILIP WEBSTER

SENIOR Conservatives last night called on the Prince and Princess of Wales to sort out their lives to protect the monarchy and many predicted that the prospect of divorce had strengthened sharply after the Princess of Wales's Panorama interview.

Sir James Hill, secretary of the party's constitutional committee, said: "I think this has had a good run. We do not want a running tit-for-tat between the two of them every year or so. An amicable divorce with plenty of provision for the two boys is the only way out now."

The Prime Minister, had his regular weekly audience with the Queen last night. Downing Street declined to give any details but some Tories were hoping that he would have pressed the view that a divorce was the best way forward.

Although Buckingham Palace will not discuss the matter, pointing to a joint statement by lawyers last year that no such action was immediately contemplated, constitutionalists now believe that a speedy divorce is the best way to clean up an increasingly messy battle of wills between two bitter protagonists.

The candour of the Princess's interview, in which she admitted an affair and hinted that her husband might not become King, left the Palace breathless. But officials acted swiftly in an attempt to draw her back into the fold.

They said that they would be talking again to the Princess to see how her future role could be defined and promised to continue to support her as a member of the Royal Family. No meeting has yet been arranged, and no moves are likely until she returns next week from her four-day visit to Argentina.

The move will be seen as an

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exercise in damage limitation and an olive branch to a woman apparently determined to set up and run her own royal show on her own terms. But the Palace was anxious to play down its offer as an act of desperation, pointing out that senior courtiers had always been in touch with the Princess, and had always offered their help to her in public duties.

The Palace refused to be drawn into any debate on the merits of the Princess's case as put forward in the interview, through which ran a thread of bitterness and rancour.

A spokesman said: "The interview speaks for itself, as the Princess herself wished. As regards questions to do with the Prince and Princess of Wales's private lives, these are essentially a matter for the Prince and Princess of Wales and their close family, and we are not going to be drawn into discussions in this area."

There was some clarification of the Princess's frequent reference to "the enemy" in her interview. Senior Palace officials, including her brother-in-law Sir Robert Fellowes, private secretary to the Queen, and Sir Robert's deputy Robin Janvrin, who has been charged with paying particular attention to the Princess's needs and problems over the past year, are exonerated: the Princess was apparently directing her fire at her husband's own staff.

Yet it was by no means clear

what further help the Palace could offer. Their only formal link with the Princess, allowing her the use of Geoffrey Crawford, the Queen's deputy press secretary, is to end after the Argentina visit, and if she has not followed their guidance in the past, she is thought unlikely to do so now.

But the senior members of the household are anxious not to become embroiled in any vindictive exchange with the Princess which would drive her even further in the direction of her own alternative monarchy show, competing for the hearts and minds of the public.

One option that may be considered is to move the Princess, her office and her staff out of St James's Palace so that she would have no contact with the "enemy" who have apparently caused her so much distress. But even that, it is feared, might serve to enhance her isolation.

Attempts by the Princess to suggest that the Prince of Wales might not wish to assume the throne and allow the succession to pass directly from the Queen to Prince William were dismissed by the Prince's camp. A spokesman for the Prince's Trust, his principal charity, said it was "100 per cent certain" that he would take the throne when the time came.

There has also been confusion over the Princess's expressed wish to be "an ambassador for Britain". Mr Major is known to value the Princess's visits abroad but has declined suggestions from her camp in the past that she be given a specific role. The Princess of Wales makes a number of charitable engagements overseas; the Prime Minister expects these to continue in the normal way.

When the Duchess of York separated from her husband it



The Prince of Wales on a fishing boat yesterday. He refused to talk about television

was briefly suggested that she might become a roving ambassador for Unicef, the international children's charity. The idea was strongly discouraged by Downing Street.

The Prince spent yesterday on official visits in Cornwall and seeing his grandmother, the Queen Mother.

He was greeted in the fishing port of Newlyn by a throng of reporters one of whom called out to ask him if

he had watched television the night before. The Prince, possibly assuming the reporter worked for the BBC, was straight-faced and replied: "Not yours."

When he arrived for the first stop on his visit, the British Cured Pilschards factory, Charles cast an unsmiling glance at the journalists who shouted "good morning".

In the afternoon he returned to London and saw the Queen

Mother at the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers where she is recuperating from a hip replacement operation. The Prince arrived just after Princess Margaret had spent 30 minutes at the hospital.

After spending an hour with his grandmother he told the waiting reporters that the Queen Mother was very well. "She's getting better and better," he said.

Bosnia peace deal hailed by Clinton

FROM TOM RHODES IN DAYTON

A COMPREHENSIVE settlement for Bosnia-Herzegovina, to end almost four years of war in the Balkans and close the most brutal chapter in Europe's history since the Second World War, was announced by President Clinton yesterday.

At least 200,000 people, most of them civilians, have died in the conflict. Two million have become refugees.

After 21 days of apparently deadlocked talks behind the sealed compounds of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, peace was agreed between the Presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia. Within an hour, Mr Clinton announced from the Rose Garden that a deal had been reached allowing the Bosnian people to move from "the horror of war to the promise of peace".

The Presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia "have made a historic and heroic choice," he said. "They have heeded the will of their people... to stop the slaughter and end the violence of war." The

three leaders were expected to initial the peace document at the Hope Hotel inside the airbase last night before a formal signing, expected in Paris in two weeks. An advance force of Nato troops is to fly to Bosnia in the next few days to start setting up headquarters for an eventual deployment of 60,000 troops, including Russians. Mr Clinton, who still faces strong Congressional opposition to America leading the force, said he would continue consultations with Capitol Hill.

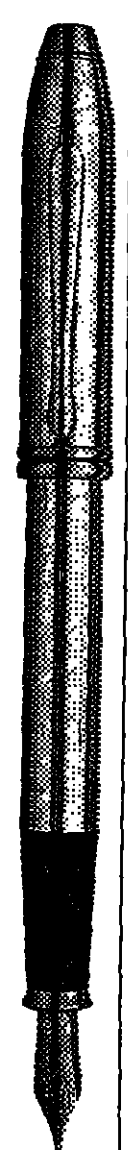
Under the agreement, Bosnia will remain a single entity, comprising a Muslim-Croat Federation and a Bosnian Serb Republic. Sarajevo will remain a united capital with a central government.

No indicted war criminals will be permitted to stand for office, thereby excluding Radovan Karadzic, the present Bosnian Serb leader, from power.

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CROSS TOWNSEND

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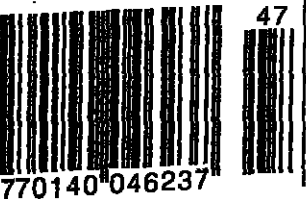


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The only House where no one talked of you-know-who



Gladstone: replied in galumphing prose

Never let it be said that MPs miss the public mood. One topic preoccupied the nation yesterday. One affair, one television interview, one Royal Personage, dominated everybody's thoughts. No bar, bus or taxi was free from its discussion. Nobody could overlook the drama.

Except the *Inverness Courier* and the House of Commons. The *Courier* must answer for itself. At the Commons, despite all expectations, nobody thought to raise the royal controversy. Nobody mentioned it at Prime Minister's Questions, and the

House moved to debate social affairs. MPs defining that term differently from their Royal Highnesses.

Doubtless John Major was briefed to answer any royal question which might arise. Madam Speaker will have been forewarned to nip in the bud any improper references to the Palace. Tony Blair will have prepared his own response. But the subject never came up. Thus does our Mother of Parliaments keep her finger to the national pulse. Tourists and visitors in the Strangers' Gallery must have been baffled.

Annie Coleman surely was.



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

Miss Coleman, dressed in red, was sitting in the Special Gallery where her MP, Nigel Jones (Lib Dem, Cheltenham), had arranged a ringside seat. Miss Coleman is 105.

She looked as sharp as a pin, paying careful attention throughout Prime Minister's Questions, smiling when John Major referred to the Tories' Sir Donald Thompson, MP that his powers did not extend to causing the rain

to fall in Yorkshire. She listened as MPs discussed attitudes to the Nigerian regime, and inclined her head, covering her face for a moment, as Major and Blair capered through their usual forgettable ding-dong.

Miss Coleman heard Mr Major exchange views on Ireland with the Ulster Unionist Leader, David Trimble, and answer a question from John Wittingdale (C, Colches-

ter South & Maldon) about the drug Ecstasy.

I wonder what she made of it. Returning, I found the *Hansard* for Tuesday November 25, 1890, the sitting day in the year of Miss Coleman's birth closest to yesterday's date. James Tynte Agg-Gardner was the MP for Cheltenham. Victoria was Queen and Edward, later the Seventh, Prince of Wales. Alexandra was his Princess.

November 25 was the opening of the new session, but Victoria did not come. The Gracious Speech mentioned trouble in Ireland. A potato famine was rife there. There

was no drought in Yorkshire, however, and Ecstasy was not a problem. Opium was.

Nigeria was not called Nigeria, but the *Annual Register* records that in Lagos "the natives were opposing the Government proposal to light the town by electricity". Inland, there had been a small uprising among the Yoruba tribe, whose Chief the British Resident had killed.

The Leader of the Opposition, W. E. Gladstone (Edinburgh, Mid Lothian) replied to the Gracious Speech in galumphing prose ("I intimate no misgiving on the

subject...") and interminable sentences utterly unredeemed by wit, irony or polish. Thuddingly prosaic, the speech boasted a Blairite high-mindedness, but no soundbites. Most of his speech was about Ireland. Replying for Lord Salisbury, the Prime Minister, was the First Lord of the Treasury, a certain Mr W. H. Smith. Yes, the same one.

Annie Coleman was not even a year old. She will not recall. So let us hope she remembers yesterday, the day the Commons didn't discuss the *Panorama* interview, with pleasure.

Will of Parliament and people could rule out Charles

By ALAN HAMILTON

WHEN John Major rose in the House of Commons on December 9, 1992, to announce the separation of the Prince and Princess of Wales, he made it clear that their failed marriage, unhappy though it might be, carried no constitutional implications. MPs nevertheless gasped in disbelief when the Prime Minister declared that there was no reason why the Princess should not be crowned Queen in due course.

The constitutional position remains unchanged by the Princess suggesting in a television interview that her husband might perhaps not be the best man for the job, and that she herself did not expect ever to be his queen consort. Such observations might be regarded as mischievous special pleading, but they nonetheless underline the fact that the present situation is messy and inconvenient.

Although she did not say so explicitly, the Princess gave an indication that her estranged husband might find peace of mind in some direction other than as King, remarks which by yesterday had been widely interpreted as her desire that Prince William should suc-

ceed directly on the death of the Queen.

For Prince Charles to step down would be against British tradition, and against his own avowed intention, underlined in his interview with Jonathan Dimbleby last year, to accept the destiny for which he has had a lifetime's training. But as the United Kingdom has no written constitution, all things are possible by the will of Parliament and, in this case, the parliaments of those other Commonwealth countries that

CONSTITUTION

retain the British monarch as their own head of state.

Constitutional experts led by the historian Lord Blake believe that the Prince and Princess should divorce at the earliest opportunity, if only to end the unedifying spectacle of two opposing and entrenched camps lobbying high-explosives at each other, and peering the edifice of monarchy with the resultant shrapnel.

Even if a divorced Prince were subsequently to marry Camilla Parker Bowles — or any other woman, divorced or

not — there would still be no constitutional difficulty. His new wife would become Princess of Wales, and would in due course become queen consort.

The problem is that of public support. Kings no longer reign by divine right, but by the will of Parliament and people, and the Prince of Wales could find himself in deep trouble were he to ascend the throne accompanied by a wife who did not have the nation's backing. In a constitutional monarchy, an attempt to take the throne without the support of a majority of subjects would almost certainly lead to strong parliamentary pressure not to do so.

Such pressure, mainly from Stanley Baldwin, Prime Minister of the day, ensured that Edward VIII vacated the throne before his coronation, and before his marriage to the divorcée Wallis Simpson.

The activities of Henry VIII may be discounted, as he reigned in the days before the Bill of Rights of 1688. George I arrived on the English throne from Germany in 1714 as a divorced man, having by all accounts treated his former wife abominably, locking her up in a castle for years. His new English subjects did not regard that as too much of a problem.

Nor have king's mistresses created constitutional difficulty: William IV and Edward VII were famous for them, and both of them reigned quite successfully, if briefly. Neither divorced their wives.

George IV was the real boundary. He abandoned Queen Caroline in favour of a morganatic and illegal marriage with Mrs Fitzherbert, and went so far as to employ bouncers at Westminster Abbey to ensure that his queen did not attend his coronation. He got away with it.

The Princess's assertion in her interview that she would not initiate divorce proceedings is a reiteration of what has been known since the couple's separation. Their official position remains the same as it was when solicitors for both camps issued a statement last year saying that there were no immediate plans for divorce. The *Panorama* broadcast, however, almost seemed like a dare to the Prince to set the ball rolling.

A divorced king is not even an insuperable barrier to becoming Supreme Governor of the Church of England. The Prince himself last year expressed his unease at becoming Defender of the Faith — ie, the Anglican faith — given that Britain is now such a multicultural society. And the Church itself is changing rapidly. If it can accommodate women priests, it can probably accommodate a divorced or remarried man as its titular head on earth.

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James Hewitt, the polo-playing captain who wooed the Princess in the late Eighties

Kiss-and-tell suitor stays silent down on the farm

By LIN JENKINS

THE officer who kissed a princess and told the tale for money called upon the local constabulary to protect him from journalists gathered outside his farmhouse in Devon yesterday.

After the admission by the Princess of Wales that she had adored him, Captain James Hewitt opted to stay out of the limelight. The former Life Guards captain spent the day in the house that was partly funded by co-operating on a book by Anna Pasternak, *Princess in Love*.

Until the television interview the nature of the relationship had been open to speculation. But both the press and former friends dubbed him a cad and he complained of being ostracised.

Yesterday he appeared reluctant to elaborate on the Princess of Wales's admission of their adulterous relationship and comment that she was left feeling "very let down". Instead Acting Inspector Sarah Curtis of Okehampton police station relayed details of his wellbeing.

After entering the six-bedroom Georgian house at Bratton Clovelly on Dartmoor with four other police from the Devon and Cornwall force, she described him as "in good spirits".

The police had been summoned because of Mr Hewitt's concern about the press encroaching on his land. After studying a map of the farm, the acting inspector

asked journalists to stick to public property. She said: "We are not here to offer Mr Hewitt advice. We were called in response to his concerns and that is why we are here to discuss his boundaries."

Mr Hewitt, 37, bought the £250,000 house in October last year shortly after the publication of the book and plans to open a riding school. At the Clovelly Arms in the

EX-LOVER

village where he opened the annual fête in June, the landlord Robert Oughton, 32, was standing by their celebrity. "He is very popular and well respected... I can't slate him. He gives me all my logs for free."

In his former profession, others have felt differently. He was blackballed from the Cavalry and Guards Club at

Knightsbridge barracks by fellow officers.

When Mr Hewitt's name was linked with Sally Faber, the wife of a Conservative MP, the Army asked him to consider his future, which he duly did.

The officer met the Princess when he was stationed in barracks at Windsor in 1988. The Princess wanted someone to teach Prince William to ride. Their friendship warmed after Mr Hewitt began coaching the Princess. She reportedly gave him a diamond tie-pin and an Asprey's clock as a thank-you for the riding lessons. The cards which accompanied the gifts were affectionately signed "Dibbs".

One friend, who declined to be named, was reported as saying that Mr Hewitt regretted his decision to sell his tale. "He has become a very cynical, bitter man and he is now a virtual recluse."



Hewitt's home, bought after the book came out

An audience beyond the BBC's dreams

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE team behind the *Panorama* interview congratulated themselves yesterday on a spectacular ratings coup: the programme was watched by about 21.1 million viewers, making it the most popular show on the BBC since 23.9 million people watched Torvill and Dean fail to win an Olympic gold medal for their ice dance routine in February 1994. At times it was estimated that 23.4 million people were watching the interview.

A *Panorama* spokeswoman said yesterday: "It's not surprising that this programme was of great interest to the public. Naturally, we are very pleased." Privately, however, the BBC, which had predicted an audience of 15 million for the programme, was overwhelmed by the ratings. After *Panorama* was launched in 1953, in the days before accurate audience figures were recorded, the programme regularly attracted about 10 million viewers, but its average audience nowadays is between 5 and 6 million. The previous highest officially recorded audience for *Panorama* was 8.8 million for a programme about the early-warning defence system Nimrod in February 1985.

As the Princess of Wales interview clashed with *Cracker*, one of ITV's most popular programmes, many viewers will have video-taped it. This could add another million viewers. This is roughly 10 per cent more than the 20 million who watched Jonathan Dimbleby's interview with the Prince of Wales on ITV last year.

The programme was shown

on the corporation's commercially run overseas satellite services. BBC World and BBC Prime, which are available in 46 million households in 111 countries. It was also broadcast on Monday night in France, Japan, Germany and Australia.

The American network ABC is screening the interview. The station is rumoured to have paid \$1 million for the programme.

By any measure, the audience figures for Monday's interview were spectacular. On an average evening, the total television audience at any one time rarely exceeds 23

BROADCASTERS

million. *EastEnders* attracted a peak of 30.15 million in 1996 for its special Christmas edition, which featured a showdown between "Dirty Den", the pub landlord, and his wife Angie.

On rare occasions television audiences exceed 30 million. The Prince and Princess of Wales's marriage in 1981 was watched by 39 million people.

Although jubilant about the figures, the *Panorama* team went to ground yesterday and refused to comment any further on the making of the programme. A BBC spokeswoman said that very little footage had been edited out of the interview, which she said was screened virtually in its entirety, apart from a couple of retakes.

She added that no decision had been taken whether to repeat the programme, or to release it on video.

Hussey 'was kept in dark for own good'

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

BBC senior management closed ranks behind its chairman, Marmaduke Hussey, yesterday in an attempt to quash speculation that it had kept him in the dark over the interview because it was feared he would leak details to Buckingham Palace.

Although BBC governors are not usually told about programmes in advance, Mr Hussey could have expected, given the nature of the interview, to have been informed. In fact, Mr Hussey, whose wife is a lady-in-waiting to the Queen, was not told until Tuesday — when Buckingham Palace was informed.

He was said yesterday to be outraged at continued speculation that the BBC feared he would tip off the Palace about the programme. BBC sources suggested that a more likely reason he was kept in the dark was to protect him from recriminations and accusations from his contacts and friends at Buckingham Palace that he had betrayed the Queen by not divulging information about the programme to her.

"Had he known about it some time in advance he would not have told the Pal-



Hussey: his wife is a lady-in-waiting

ace," a source said. "However, it is possible that his friends and connections there would have held it against him for not leaking the information to them. They might have felt that he had let them down. This way, he can honestly say 'I didn't know about it and therefore I'm not to blame.'"

Knowing the Palace would almost certainly have tried to suppress all or part of the programme, the BBC decided that the safest solution on all fronts and the one that would avoid Mr Hussey any social embarrassment would be to tell him nothing until the information had been made public.

MPs' REACTION

derson, Labour's constitutional affairs spokesman, said Mr Soames had overstepped his parliamentary responsibilities. "I find it strange that a Defence Minister should be meddling in the affairs of the monarchy."

Andrew Mackinlay, MP for Thurrock, wrote to Mr Major saying: "It is quite improper for the Minister to trespass into this matter. This intervention by Mr Soames is a manifestation of the old magic circle of the Establishment, merely confirming much of what the Princess alleged."

He also said the Princess was Colonel-in-Chief of two

regiments, The Light Dragoons and The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment and asked Mr Major whether it was appropriate for Mr Soames to describe as paranoid the chief of two regiments for which he was responsible.

From the Tory side, Sir Teddy Taylor accused Mr Soames of being unnecessarily "aggressive" at what was clearly a difficult time for both the Prince and Princess.

Yesterday Mr Soames was unrepentant, repeating his charges in an interview with BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme. He described the Princess's appearance as "a very calculating and very polished performance".

Among Tory MPs the overwhelming view was a divorce would be better than the present near-open warfare between the Prince and Princess.

Proponent of Palace glasnost cast as villain of the piece

By EMMA WILKINS

THE Princess of Wales's allegations of a St James's Palace conspiracy to undermine her position were being interpreted yesterday as a thinly veiled attack on Commander Richard Aylard, private secretary to the Prince of Wales.

In her television interview, the Princess explained her fears of a campaign based on fear and jealousy, where visits abroad were blocked and letters to the couple's shared office in St James's Palace went astray.

After some initial vagueness, the Princess made clear her suspicions to the *Panorama* interviewer.

Martin Bashir, saying: "Well, the enemy was my husband's department, because I always got more publicity, my work was more, was discussed much more than him."

The irony of the Princess's public testimony will not be lost on Commander Aylard, the man chiefly responsible for persuading the Prince of Wales to co-operate with Jonathan Dimbleby's television documentary and biography. As a proponent of openness with the media, Commander Aylard can hardly complain when his employer's wife adopts the same tactics.

While the more traditional courtiers at Buckingham Palace viewed the Princess's confessions of

THE 'ENEMIES'

adultery with Camilla Parker Bowles with abject horror, Commander Aylard, 43, was convinced the revelations would produce sympathy and understanding from the public.

A grammar school boy from Barnet, north London, who read zoology at Reading University, he shares the Prince's environmental concerns and secured his employer's approval after writing speeches on such issues.

Commander Aylard's *glasnost* contrasts with the approach of his predecessor, Sir Christopher Airy, whose sudden departure in 1991

was regarded as evidence that the Prince was clearing out the old guard to set up an autonomous office at St James's. Dimbleby's biography trends warily over the change of staff. The biographer says that although Commander Aylard is more ambitious than his appearance would suggest "there was no evidence for the accusation against him" that he had "engineered his own preferment".

Commander Aylard's devotion to the Prince is unquestionable. A former naval officer who served with the Duke of York, he became the youngest commander in the Royal Navy albeit as a member of the purser's branch of the service.

He began his Palace career ten years ago as equerry to the Princess of Wales but by 1988 he was firmly in the Prince's camp with his appointment as Controller to the Prince's Household — a post created for him.

Commander Aylard was the leading aide to be consulted by Nicholas Soames in 1993 after the Princess announced her temporary withdrawal from public life. Using his position as a member of the Government, Mr Soames wanted to counter speculation that the succession might bypass the Prince and pass to Prince William instead. The issue had been raised at that time by the Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York.

Mr Soames's public declara-

tions in 1993 were almost identical to his robust defence of the Prince's succession made on BBC2's *Newsnight* after the Princess's interview on Monday night. In 1993, Mr Soames said: "Being heir to the throne is not an ambition but a duty and one which will benefit him on a sad moment later in his life. He will inherit the throne and that is the end of the matter."

Although the Princess complained of lack of support from Buckingham Palace staff in the early years of her marriage, officials have worked hard over the past 12 months to assist in dealings with the media. Robin Janvrit, assistant private secretary to the Queen, has been especially helpful. A

recent improvement in relations with Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary and the Princess's brother-in-law, has been effected by Lady Jane Fellowes, the Princess's sister.

The Princess's complaint that she lacked support from the Palace immediately after she married were refuted yesterday by Michael Shea, who was then Press Secretary to the Queen. "We spent a large amount of time helping the Princess emerge into the limelight," he said. "She was given the fullest support by me and my deputy." But Mr Shea acknowledged that the pressures on the young Princess were intense, the burden "horrible".

'A real danger will arise if ever the Princess's anger is turned inwards against herself'

Half-truth spoken a thousand times can fool the teller

DOCTORS are perhaps even more inquisitive about human nature than laymen, and they made certain last Monday evening that any visit had been completed before *Panorama* and that only the most urgent calls would be allowed to interrupt the interview with the Princess of Wales.

The scene was uncannily like that which takes place during innumerable consultations in the doctor's surgery, but on this occasion the patient was the wife of the heir to the throne and the doctor was Martin Bashir of the BBC. As Mr Bashir probed and prompted, the story of the Princess's fears and obsessions came pouring out.

Mr Bashir was polite and deferential, like a good doctor, but unlike a doctor he didn't explore obvious omissions in her history and inconsistencies in her motivation.

Usually the doctor's first task when discussing such sensitive issues as sex life, marital quarrels and maternal love is to encourage the patient to talk. The Princess needed no encouragement to unburden herself to the interviewer and to 21 million viewers.

She gave the impression of being self-possessed and

MEDICAL VERDICT



Dr Thomas Stuttaford dissects the body language, discrepancies and motivations displayed by the Princess of Wales in her *Panorama* performance

highly articulate. A patient whose story flows so easily, without the customary hums and hahs of surgery consultations — as well as dinner-time conversation — and employs a fixed, unblinking eye contact throughout, albeit relieved by the occasional demure downward glance, hoists the warning flags just as quickly as does the demeanour of a patient who is obviously shy and evasive. Mills and Boon novels have lent credence to the mistaken belief that the unswerving gaze straight into the interrogator's eyes is the hallmark of truthfulness; it is true that the anxious person's eyes flicker but the experi-

enced deceiver soon learns to adopt a steadfast gaze.

The Princess's delivery was just too pat. Either the questions asked had been rehearsed a thousand times on other occasions so that the Princess no longer saw any weaknesses in her account and has come to believe her own story with all its obvious imperfections; or she was putting on a good act.

I would favour the former view, but one was conscious, even when she spoke of her very real acts of kindness with dying patients, that the speaker was the same woman who had been less than kind about people on the "Squidgy" tapes



The Princess laughing during the interview, while keeping her almost constant eye contact with Martin Bashir

when talking to James Gilbey. Which is the real Princess: the woman who wants to reign in our hearts if not in our throne, or the mocking cynic with a streak of cruelty who was displayed on the tapes?

A doctor has to decide whether the patient being interviewed is telling the truth, or whether the facts of the story have been edited and obscured by half-truths. If the Princess of Wales had been in my consulting room I would have felt great sympathy for

her psychological and emotional tensions. I would not have accepted piecemeal her account, and I would have been fascinated by the apparent discrepancies in her ambitions and motivations.

Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister and friend of the Prince of Wales, has trailed the opinion that the interview displayed a severe degree of paranoia. There was no obvious evidence of paranoia. The accusations made were possible although unlike-

ly. Her account did display her distress, unhappiness, impulsiveness and loneliness, coupled with an enormous desire to be loved. It also revealed a remarkable degree of self-obsession, a lack of insight and of remorse, a determination to achieve her own ends without regard to the consequences for others — in this case not only her husband and family but also the monarchy and the State — and an ability to manipulate by gesture, tone of voice and use of eyes.

It was a mastery performance, but was it also the performance of somebody who is likely to have attacks of acute depression? Very possibly, particularly as the Princess's family history in this respect is not good and she also has had bulimia. This is often associated with psychiatric conditions long before enforced vomiting or laxative taking.

Some of the Princess's comments were ruthless. A person doesn't have to be a psychiatrist to know that to criticise another's ability to do their job, particularly one that has taken a lifetime of training, can be devastating. The savagery of any attack is no less destructive for being delivered in a small, quiet voice.

The interview, as well as exposing misery, also uncovered hatred and wrath. A real danger will arise if ever the Princess's anger is turned inwards against herself rather than outwards against the Royal Family. This could not only endanger her own life, but also the future of the monarchy. The Queen's offer to hold discussions can be nothing other than advantageous in this respect.

Big news — but not as big as the Beatles

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AUSTRALIANS seized on the interview in their debate on republicanism yesterday as an estimated 12 million people — two thirds of the population — tuned in to watch. The programme was broadcast live at breakfast time by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, and repeated in the evening.

The channel — Australia's equivalent of the BBC — obtained exclusive rights under a long-standing agreement. The programme prompted a huge viewer response, with many ringing in to say how much they sympathised with the Princess.

Republicans welcomed the interview for their own reasons. Michael Ward, executive director of the Australian Republican Movement, said: "Diana described it as a daily soap opera. Well, maybe we should make a decision in our interests to end the soap opera. The myth of the monarchy is well and truly over."

But Kerry Jones, of Australians For A Constitutional Monarchy, said: "It highlighted the importance of distinguishing people's personalities from the Australian republican debate. The Princess has no constitutional job and is never in the line of inheritance."

The Australian author Kathy Lette, married to Geoffrey Robertson, a London barrister, said the Princess's performance would force Britain to become a republic before Australia. She said: "She's a brilliant incendiary device. She's not going to divorce him, so she keeps her tiara and her toy boys. She has the palace and the fella."

The interview was broadcast throughout France last

night, dubbed into the national language on TV1, the country's most popular channel, which rearranged normal programming. The event brought together two of France's most enduring fixations, the British Royal Family and adultery.

The press had already offered an enthusiastic preview of what it called "Le Lady Di Show", and the most avid royal-watchers had paid to see the interview via cable on BBC Prime TV at the same time as viewers in Britain.

France has long idolised the Princess of Wales, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. "The whole of England was moved," declared the tabloid *France-Soir*, which devoted an entire page to what is called "a real bombshell" of an

WIDEWIDE

event. *Le Figaro* applauded an "honest" and "spectacular affirmation of independence," but observed that "Lady Di, although always popular with the public, has slightly lost her aura". The daily *Le Parisien* found the Princess "deeply touching in her sincerity", and took the opportunity to rehearse the main events of the royal marriage drama, including what is known here as "la Squidgy tape".

America reacted to the Princess of Wales's disclosures with wry detachment, although the interview generated less interest than the new Beatles song. The Princess made the front pages of popular newspapers, and the *New York Post* deployed the old tabloid tactic of billing further details on six inside pages. One columnist observed: "It's amazing how much we care."

Television and radio news

bulletins mentioned the Princess briefly, but announcers introduced the item wearing their "and now for something from quaint olde England" faces.

Enough Americans are in touch with the details of modern royalty for *USA Today* to use "Hewitt" in a headline without explaining who he is. Typical comments from New Yorkers yesterday centred on sympathy for the Queen. ABC television will broadcast the interview on Friday.

In Germany, the interview became the national topic of conversation. A radio call-in programme focused on the Princess's bulimia condition. The mass circulation newspaper *Bild* carried the banner headline: "Will she now be hounded out of the Palace?" The newspaper did not answer the question but quoted the Prince of Wales, without any recognisable source, as saying: "I will never have this woman next to me on the throne. Diana will never be Queen!"

In Spain, later editions of the newspapers relayed the revelations by the Princess (pronounced *Laydee Dee* by Spaniards, usually with some affection). Again, the *Beatles* were a bigger news item.

The national paper *La Vanguardia* carried a whole page headed: "Lady Di declares that she will never will be Queen because the Royal Family consider her 'dangerous'." A film channel will show the interview this week. In Japan, reaction was bemused curiosity, spiced with a mildly prurient relish at her revelation of adultery. NHK, the public television station, broadcast several minutes of the interview followed by British media response.



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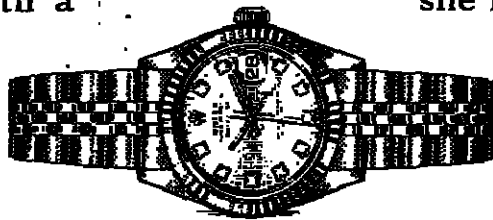
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Café society buzzes with tale of faraway infidelity

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN BUENOS AIRES

THE Princess of Wales's admission of infidelity was being discussed in every café along the tree-lined avenues of Buenos Aires yesterday.

Argentines are following the unfolding Royal drama more avidly than the soap operas. The Princess arrives in their country on Thursday for a four-day visit.

Her *Panorama* interview was covered in every Argentine newspaper editorial yesterday. Snippets of the programme were shown on every news bulletin and TV commentators analysed the psychological implications that the adultery admission would have on her sons.

"It could have been revenge but it seems most likely that she had to tell her side of the story just to get things straight," said one pundit on the national ATC channel.

MEMEN

"Most Argentines still feel sympathy for her. Her husband is such a cold Englishman. We won't take it against her that she was unfaithful, it happens everywhere."

One television news bulletin began thus: "Britain is stunned by wild revelations. The entire country sat mesmerised in front of the television as the Princess revealed all with stunning openness."

During the Princess's visit, described as "a private meeting with some working elements", she will tour state hospitals, clinics for the disabled and children's charities, which are sponsoring her trip.

The Association for the Struggle Against Infant Paralysis is hosting a dinner for the Princess on Friday with tickets selling for \$500. She will also lunch with President

Menem at his residence on Friday.

But the Princess is expected to receive a less friendly reception when she travels 1,200 miles south of the capital to Gaiman and Trelew, two Welsh colonies in Patagonia on Saturday.

The local mayor, John Humphreys, has already said: "The Princess is not welcome because she represents the interests of the Crown which quashed the rights of Welsh people. We are the descendants of Welshmen with republican sentiments. Our ancestors came all the way to remote Patagonia to defend our identity and language. For us the Princess represents those who wanted to take those rights away from us," he said. "We don't really care if she admits to adultery or not."

A demonstration is planned in Gaiman when the Princess visits a local tea-room on Saturday.

THE WEEKEND
STARTS HEREFRIDAY
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SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES

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Phone call fails to solve problems

Disagreement on IRA arms delays Dublin summit

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Watt

JOHN MAJOR and John Bruton failed last night in an attempt to reach a deal that would put the Northern Ireland peace process back on track.

After a 40-minute telephone conversation between the two Prime Ministers, differences remained over the question of IRA disarmament. Officials had hoped the talks would pave the way for a summit in Dublin as early as Friday.

Sources in Dublin said the two men would speak again tomorrow. While Friday was not ruled out for a summit, there was a chance that it would have to be delayed until after President Clinton's visit to Britain and Ireland next week.

Both sides said substantial progress had been made. But the crucial stumbling block appeared to be the refusal of Mr Major to allow the so-called Washington 3 demand — that the IRA must start giving up weapons before it can be allowed into substantive all-party talks — to be put on the agenda of the proposed international body that will supervise the decommissioning of arms.

Mr Major made plain in the Commons again yesterday that the Washington 3 condi-

tion stands. While Dublin accepts that Mr Major cannot relent on the issue, it is still pressing for a recognition that it could be put on the commission's agenda.

Mr Major and Mr Bruton are trying to reach agreement on Mr Major's latest proposals to get the so-called twin track strategy — the establishment of the commission alongside preparatory talks between the parties — under way. Mr Major's readiness to accept a firm target date for the start of full talks, and his implicit recognition that Sinn Féin will not be prevented from raising the wider question of British arms in front of the commission, has been welcomed in Dublin. Mr Major is ready and willing to go to Dublin on Friday if an agreement can be reached. But after the talks last night, a Dublin government source said: "There are still road blocks and we are working to try to unblock them."

Mr Bruton outlined Dublin's reaction to Mr Major's proposals in a letter sent to Downing Street on Monday night. He told the Irish Parliament yesterday that he would not hold an Anglo-Irish summit with Mr Major until they had reached an accord.

He added: "I would only wish to agree the setting of a date when I was satisfied that we would be in a position to settle all the outstanding matters."

The Taoiseach declined to elaborate on the details of his contacts with Mr Major because they had reached such a critical phase. But he told the House: "To my mind the peace process is being worked at very sincerely and very actively by all of the parties involved."

The new momentum was reinforced when Mr Bruton held his second meeting in as many days with Gerry Adams yesterday. The Sinn Féin president declined to comment after the meeting, which focused on Mr Major's proposals. Earlier he had reiterated his demand for all-party talks.

"I think the British have completely undermined the peace process by refusing to honour the commitments they made before the IRA cessation."

The British have to accept the democratic imperative of this peace process," Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, will underline Britain's commitment to pressing ahead with the peace process in a keynote speech in Londonderry today.



Johnnie Cochran at the law centre yesterday. He urged his audience to fight racism from within the system

OJ's lawyer deals Toxteth a race ace

By Kate Alderson

JOHNNIE COCHRAN, the lawyer who defended O.J. Simpson, urged an audience in Liverpool yesterday to fight against the injustice of British racism "from within the system."

He received a hero's welcome from the enthusiastic 200-strong audience at the Liverpool 8 Law Centre, a black law group set up after the 1981 Toxteth riots. He told them they had to fight against a legal system reluctant to hand out justice to all its citizens and urged the young to "stay in the battle and never quit". Mr Cochran said that race played a part in

everything. "None of us can be accused of playing the race card in societies when we are the minorities," he told the cheering crowd.

In reference to criticism that he played the race cards "from the bottom of the deck" during the Simpson trial, he said: "Don't ever be thrown off by people saying you are playing the race card."

One third of African/American males had been "in touch with the American legal system", he said, and the situation was not much better in Britain.

Mr Cochran was accompanied by Milton Grimes, counsel for Rodney King, the Los Angeles motorist filmed

being beaten by police officers. The officers' acquittal sparked riots in the city. "We are going in the wrong direction," Mr Cochran said. "It is not productive for a society to look up all of its minority groups."

However, the solution was not to challenge the system from outside. The Simpson case had proved you could beat the system by fighting it from the inside and "playing by its rules".

During his week in Britain, Mr Cochran has addressed the Society of Black Lawyers, the Association of Black Probation Officers and the Black Police Association.

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Trusted bosses 'cheated Jaguar of thousands'

By a Staff Reporter

JAGUAR Cars was systematically cheated out of hundreds of thousands of pounds in a four-year conspiracy involving two of its own publicity managers, a court was told yesterday.

Roger Fielding, 43, and Ronald Parker, 61, described in court as "trusted" managers, took vast bribes from Reynard Platt, 51, in return for fraudulent contracts. David Bate, QC, for the prosecution, told Snaresbrook Crown Court in central London.

Fielding, Parker and Platt have admitted conspiracy to commit corruption. A fourth defendant, Roger Kennedy, 51, is alone in the dock denying conspiracy to defraud Jaguar. Mr Kennedy and his west-London based firm, Nova Arts Ltd, are accused of acting as a "money-launderer" for Platt, who was company director of the Facilities Group, a subsidiary of Saatchi and Saatchi, the advertising agency.

Platt also headed Number 32, which carried out all type-setting and translation work for Jaguar. Mr Bate told the jury that for four years, between 1987 and 1991, "two of their trusted senior employees were systematically defrauding Jaguar on a large scale". He said Fielding and Parker

ensured contracts for the translation of Jaguar publications went to Platt and Mr Kennedy and others, and used false invoices to overcharge the car firm by massive amounts. Once Jaguar paid up, "large sums of money were then paid by way of bribes to Fielding and Parker and then the whole system would be repeated".

He added: "Kennedy was providing clean money. He was providing money that could not be directly related to Jaguar and what was going on." He said the scheme was "pretty enormous", although he could not put a precise figure on it. But during the four years in which the system operated, Fielding received £334,777, most of it in bribes, in addition to his Jaguar salary of £105,215.

Mr Kennedy, of Edenbridge, Kent, denies conspiracy to defraud Jaguar and a further charge of conspiracy to commit false accounting. Fielding, of Evesham, Worcestershire and Parker, of Coventry, have admitted conspiracy to commit corruption. Platt, of South Beaconsfield, Bucks, admits conspiracy to commit corruption.

The case, which is expected to last two weeks, continues.

Judge asks media for restraint on rulings

The media spotlight on the courts overturning decisions by the Home Secretary was "potentially dangerous", a High Court judge said last night. Mr Justice Dyson, who himself recently overruled a decision by Michael Howard, said that such media interest could fuel the case of those who wanted to curb judges' powers. Such media attention drew public focus away from the everyday work of the court in remedying the wrongs of public bodies, he said.

PC jailed

A policeman who assaulted a woman, after offering to drop a minor drug charge in exchange for sex, was sentenced to three months in jail at Dundee Sheriff Court. PC Ian Gibson, 31, was convicted of a breach of the peace and assaulting Karen McNally, 35, a mother of two. He was freed on bail pending an appeal.

Hawking sell-out

The physicist Stephen Hawking will tonight address a sell-out audience of 4,800 at the Royal Albert Hall, London. The Waterstone's lecture, supported by The Times and Icon Books, is entitled Does God throw Dice in Black Holes? and will discuss whether the universe is determined by inexorable laws or by chance.

Ulster explosion

A security guard has been treated for shock after an explosion outside the courthouse in Omagh, Co Tyrone. The device, which was made from gunpowder mixed with coins and contained in a metal box, was hidden in a traffic cone. Police said they did not know whether republican terrorists carried out the explosion.

Actor collapses

The actor and singer Jason Donovan collapsed yesterday while out shopping in the Bondi Beach area of Sydney. Ambulance men gave him oxygen, but he discharged himself from hospital within half an hour, asking medical staff not to reveal any details. Earlier this year Donovan collapsed at the Viper Room nightclub in Los Angeles.

Tobacco seized

A lorry driver was charged and released on bail yesterday after customs officers found three quarters of a tonne of tobacco and 1.2 million cigarettes on a lorry at Belfast docks coming off a ferry from Heysham, Lancashire. About 1,000 litres of beer and 45 litres of wine were also confiscated. The lorry had been to Calais.

Burglars feel full force of the law

By Stewart Tandler
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CHARLES POLLARD, Chief Constable of Thames Valley, and 140 officers supported by dogs, horses and a helicopter descended on High Wycombe yesterday, vowing to create a crime-free zone for 24 hours. Unfortunately, two would-be burglars had not been told.

Last night a 19-year-old man and a 20-year-old woman were being questioned after a woman found two burglars breaking into her home. As they fled, two mounted officers galloped into view, followed by three squad cars, three CID cars and a police van.

Police fighting crime and burglary had decided to saturate the Downley area of the Buckinghamshire town. Local advertising, leaflets and street signs had given warning that the police would be out in force. Thames Valley were supported by detachments from British Transport Police and the RAF police who have bases in the area.

But Sue Leighton, a local resident, was sceptical. Her home had been burgled four times and, as she drove home, she said to a friend: "No crime, that's a laugh. I bet there will be more than ever." As she opened her front door, two burglars were trying to get in



Pollard: headed strategy for Thames Valley

through a back window. She gave chase. They fled and Thames Valley Police arrived. The horses Monty and Merlin galloped into nearby woods while police officers from Reading tried to sort out the geography. PC Dean Lyons looked astonished by the company: he normally covers his beat with the help of only an insurance worker serving as a special constable. Last night his colleagues were consoling themselves that if they had not prevented any crime they might at least have achieved another aim: to solve any crime committed within the 24 hours.

Child's grin haunted trial of Rosemary West

Photo that helped to expose lies of mother who killed

By RICHARD DUCE AND BILL FROST

A PHOTOGRAPH of a smiling Charmaine West at the age of seven, with a skull superimposed over her face, was one of the most poignant images shown to the West trial jury.

The Crown said that Charmaine, the daughter of Frederick West's first wife, Rena Costello, was the first person that Mrs West murdered. Brian Leveson, QC, for the prosecution, said she secured the child's arms with a belt, tied her to a bed, beat her, killed her — and kept the body for Frederick West to dispose of when he was released from a prison term he was then serving.

"From that moment on you both were bound together for ever," Mr Leveson said.

Mrs West was yesterday found guilty of murdering Charmaine, her daughter Heather, 16, and a lodger, Shirley Robinson, who was pregnant with Frederick West's child. In all three cases, the prosecution produced evidence that Mrs West had lied or been inconsistent in explaining the disappearance of the victims.

Charmaine's body was recovered from the Wests' former home in Midland Road, Gloucester, after police began an investigation in February 1994 into the death of Heather West. David Whitaker, a consultant dental surgeon, used the picture of Charmaine's skull to illustrate that only "a very short period of time" had elapsed from the time the school photograph was taken of her on April 29, 1971, while West was in prison, and her murder.

Mrs West explained the child's disappearance to neighbours by saying Charmaine had returned to live in Scotland with her mother. Her body was subsequently discovered in a field in Much Marcle, Hereford and Worcester. When she gave



The victims: Charmaine West, Heather West, and Shirley-Anne Robinson. From the moment of Charmaine's death, Rosemary West and her husband were bound together for ever, the court heard

evidence, Mrs West told the court she had seen Charmaine's mother come to Midland Road to collect her. "Did you have any conversation with her?" Mr Leveson asked. Mrs West: "No, I walked past."

Mr Leveson challenged her: "All that about Rena coming to pick up Charmaine is piffle, isn't it?" She replied: "No sir, it's the truth."

The court was told Mrs West had developed a violent dislike of the child. Mr Leveson said: "At the age of 17 it cannot have been easy for Rosemary West to cope with Charmaine only ten years younger. There is clear evidence that Charmaine was greatly disliked by Rosemary West."

Charmaine refused to cry when Mrs West treated her harshly. Shirley Giles and her daughter Tracy lived above the Wests. "One morning Mrs Giles sent Tracy to borrow a cup of milk. Tracy saw Charmaine standing on a wooden chair with her hands tied behind her back with a belt. Mrs West had a large wooden spoon in her hand

and it looked as though she was about to hit her. Tracy was very upset and Mrs Giles later spoke to Mrs West about it. She replied that Charmaine had been naughty and had to be punished."

When Charmaine disappeared, Mrs Giles' daughter asked: "Where is Charmaine?" Mrs West replied: "Gone to live with her mother and bloody good riddance."

In a letter to her husband in May 1971, while he was in prison, Mrs West wrote: "Darling, about Charm. I think she likes to be handled rough. But Darling why do I have to be the one to do it? I would keep her for her own sake if it wasn't for the rest of the children."

In his taped interviews with police, West said he killed Rena and Charmaine. He said he took Rena out to a pub and got her "absolutely paralytic". Charmaine was in the back of the car asleep. "I strangled her while she was sleeping. No way I would have touched her in any way," he said. He claimed he wrapped up the dead child up and drove her back to 25 Midland Road.

West also confessed to police that he killed his teenage daughter Heather, saying he "hung" at her and "grabbed her round the throat". He told police: "Rose knew nothing about it at all."

Heather was the oldest daughter, who was 16 when she disappeared in June 1987. Her parents did not report her

She tied her, beat her, killed her and kept the body for Frederick West to dispose of when he was released

missing and they made no inquiries about her. It was inquiries about Heather that eventually led to the police digging up the patio of 25 Cromwell Street in February 1994.

West told police that he had lunged at Heather and strangled her when she told him she wanted to leave home. He claimed Mrs West was out

shopping at the time and that he had hidden Heather's body before cutting it up with an ice saw and burying it under the patio. He said he had told his wife he had been unable to prevent her leaving home.

Mrs West was inconsistent in her claims of what happened to her daughter. Mr Leveson told the court. In her evidence, Mrs West claimed she had gone shopping, leaving her daughter with her husband on the day she disappeared. But Linda Tonks, a neighbour, said Mrs West told her that both she and West had gone out shopping and returned to find that Heather had gone.

Mrs West said she believed the claims of her husband, that after Heather left home he had seen her around Gloucester. Mr Leveson put it to her: "You never went to the police or anyone in authority. You never went to her doctor to see if she was still coming to see him. You just wandered round the streets hoping to see her?" Mrs West replied: "Yes, sir."

The Crown said that Mrs West's motive for murdering Shirley-Anne Robinson, a

lodger at 25 Cromwell Street, was rivalry. Mr Leveson said it was significant that Shirley Robinson was the only victim at Cromwell Street whose remains were found without any sort of tape or rope. She moved into Cromwell Street by April 1977 and soon became pregnant by West.

There was friction between Mrs West and Shirley. Shirley was becoming emotional, often saying she loved Fred. There were frequent rows between the Wests," Mr Leveson said.

A fellow lodger returned to Cromwell Street to find Shirley had vanished. West told her, in the presence of Mrs West, that she had gone to visit relatives in Germany. Another lodger recalled seeing Mrs West in Shirley's old room packing her clothes into plastic carrier bags.

Mr Leveson said Mrs West was "clearing out the room and disposing of Shirley's belongings in exactly the same way as she must have done for Charmaine seven years earlier. Like Charmaine she was dead. Getting rid of them avoided problems."



Murderer: Rosemary West in the dock yesterday at Winchester. Seven more verdicts are awaited

Leah Betts died of drinking water to counter drug's effect

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

LEAH BETTS, the teenager who collapsed after taking an Ecstasy tablet, died as a result of drinking too much water, which made her brain swell.

Doctors who treated her at Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, Essex, where she was taken after lapsing into a coma at home during her 18th birthday party, will tell the coroner that "water intoxication", and not an allergic reaction to the drug, was the cause of death. The inquest into her death is to open in Chelmsford today but is expected to be adjourned. The coroner will receive a post-mortem report by the Home Office pathologist Dr Paula Lammis.

Water intoxication occurs when a person drinks so much water — a minimum of three litres — that the blood becomes diluted. Laboratory results show that, on admission to hospital hours after taking the E10 tablet, Leah's plasma sodium level — a measure of how dilute her blood had become — had fallen to 126 millimoles per litre compared with a normal range of 135 to 145.

As a result, water was sucked into her brain cells under osmotic pressure, causing them to swell. This increased pressure on the brain stem, resulting in coma and death.

Overheating and dehydration are known risks of taking Ecstasy, a stimulant which

can keep young people dancing for hours, and drug agencies advise users to drink plenty of water and take frequent rests.

Although she had not been dancing energetically for hours, it is understood that when Leah began to feel unwell at the party she made repeated trips to the bathroom to drink water. She believed mistakenly that this was the way to ward off the ill-effects of the drug.

Leah's case attracted national attention after her parents tried to alert young people to the dangers of drug-taking, releasing a photograph of her in intensive care. At Prime Minister's Question Time yesterday, John Major expressed sympathy for the girl's parents.

Experts said yesterday that a single pill of the drug could not have poisoned her and was highly unlikely to have caused an allergic reaction. Analysis of blood samples has also shown that the pill was not contaminated, as earlier speculation had suggested. Friends who took the same pills were unaffected.

Dr John Henry, director of the National Poisons Unit at Guy's Hospital, said: "I am not aware of anyone who has died as a result of an acute allergic reaction to Ecstasy. Her low plasma sodium level



Leah Betts suffered "water intoxication"

makes her death much more explicable. She drank a lot of water but with a lack of understanding of why she needed to drink water. Water is not an antidote to Ecstasy, it is an antidote to dancing."

Dr Henry said Ecstasy led to compulsive behaviour as well as blocking the body's normal signals indicating thirst or tiredness. "There have been cases of teenagers drinking too much water before," he said.

Dr Peter Berridge, a consultant anaesthetist at the Royal Oldham Hospital who has treated Ecstasy users, said powerful stimulants such as Ecstasy triggered release of ADH, a hormone that slows the action of the kidneys, even

when excess water is in the body. "Water intoxication can occur after drinking as little as three litres. Under these circumstances it causes headache, nausea and vomiting," he said.

"Leah Betts died after just one [Ecstasy] tablet — she drank too much water whilst the drug stopped her body disposing of it. It may be she set out not to disgrace her parents. When she started to feel ill she thought: what could she do, and she started to drink water."

Dr Berridge said the advice from drug agencies to young people to drink plain water could have fatal consequences, as in Leah's case. They should drink water or soft drinks with salt added at the rate of two teaspoons per litre or isotonic sports drinks. If taken in excessive amounts these could lead to swelling in the body tissues but would not cause swelling of the brain because they would maintain plasma sodium levels.

"Young people going to raves should take a two-litre bottle of pop with four teaspoons of salt added. It can be water or pop, flat or fizzy, anything they like. It doesn't taste too salty."

"It is not realistic to rely on young people saying 'No' to drugs. There is no way we are going to stop them using drugs. We have to limit the harm drugs can do."

Nurse gave sick son insulin overdose

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A NURSE who gave her ten-year-old son a potentially fatal dose of stolen insulin was freed yesterday after the judge saw letters from her other children saying they wanted their mother back. The woman gave insulin to the boy at the family home in Fife and then administered a second dose into his hospital drip as doctors tried to stabilise his condition, the High Court in Edinburgh was told.

The 41-year-old woman, told police her epileptic son had begged her to give him "a bit of peace" and allow him to join his grandfather, who had died several years before. However, the court was told that

when he recovered, the boy denied saying this to his mother.

He had suffered an injury at birth which led to him developing epilepsy by the age of five. He also suffered migraines and would fly into "cataclysmic rage reactions". During one of these rages he threw boiling water at his mother's face.

The woman admitted two charges of assaulting the boy by administering insulin to his severe injury and to the danger of his life. She also admitted stealing the insulin and syringes from the hospital where she worked. The woman, who has three other children, had originally faced a charge of attempted murder but this was dropped.

James Campbell, the advocate depute,

for the prosecution, said the woman had told colleagues at the hospital in Fife where she worked that her son was very ill. She had also asked whether insulin could be detected in a post-mortem examination. It was the suspicions of colleagues that led to her arrest.

After Gordon Jackson, QC, for the woman, produced letters written by the woman's children and said "they want their mummy back", Lord Johnston, presiding, told her: "This is obviously a tragic and unusual case and at the moment I am not satisfied in any way that the public interest would be served by sending you to prison." He deferred sentence until December 12 at the High Court in Glasgow and told her there were no restrictions on her liberty.

Dave finishes link, takes off cans, hands them to Simon. YOU'LL BE ALRIGHT, YOU'VE GOT THE SHAGGY SINGLE - IT'S AN EASY SEGUE. looking at the buttons and faders Oi, wait.... where's Pre-Fade? heading for the studio door: THE BLUE ONE. It's marked red in the other studio. And what am I supposed to say? speaking from corridor JUST SAY YOU'RE DAVE'S PRODUCER AND THAT DAVE'S GONE FOR A WEE.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY
£50,000
**Hotelier
against
verdict**

the "Cotton States and Georgia Exposition," which was the largest of its kind ever held in the South. The exposition was held in Atlanta, Ga., from September 1 to November 1, 1905. It was the largest exposition ever held in the South, and it was the largest exposition ever held in the South.

Wildlife a

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Dr. Williams' Pink Pills

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£50,000 damages award upheld

Hotelier loses plea against civil court verdict of rape

By Robin Young

AN HOTELIER is facing costs and damages of more than £200,000 after losing an appeal yesterday against a civil court finding that he raped an employee.

The Crown Prosecution Service had decided not to prosecute Arthur Williams, a former chef at the Dorchester Hotel in London, after Linda Griffiths, who had worked for him as a dishwasher, alleged he raped her in February 1991.

Mrs Griffiths, 32, a divorcee, was so angry at the decision to drop the case that she launched a civil damages claim for "trespass against the person", and at Truro County Court in April a jury awarded her £50,000 damages after a six-day hearing.

Mr Williams, who claimed that Mrs Griffiths had consented to sex when he called on her at the £45-a-week bed-sitter she was renting from him, appealed on the ground that evidence given by his former wife Joyce about his "dominant attitude to sex" had prejudiced the jury. He also claimed he had not been allowed to call a witness who might have cleared him.

Yesterday three Court of Appeal judges dismissed his appeal and refused to reconsider the jury's award.

Mr Williams, owner of the Green Lavins Hotel at Falmouth in Cornwall, now faces financial ruin as a result of the decision. His legal aid certificate had been revoked and he



Williams insists he is not guilty of rape

said after the hearing that he had no idea how he would meet the costs. He added: "I still maintain that I am not guilty of rape. God help anyone who is accused of rape in a civil court."

Lord Justice Rose, sitting with Lord Justice Millett and Mr Justice Thorpe at the Court of Appeal in London, rejected the claim that there had been a miscarriage of justice because of Mrs Williams' evidence.

Lord Justice Millett said that the evidence of Mr Williams' former wife could not have supported the case advanced by Mrs Griffiths, but said there was "abundant" other evidence to justify the jury's verdict.

Lord Justice Rose said Mr Williams had betrayed his trust as Mrs Griffiths' land-

lord and had subjected her to harassment. Mrs Griffiths said after the verdict: "After seeing justice done once I am glad it has not been snatched away. It was not the money. All I wanted was the verdict."

At the hearing in Truro Mrs Griffiths told the court she had wanted to kill herself after Mr Williams had raped her. She said he had threatened her with eviction unless she had sex with him. She told the court: "I felt dirty. I did not sleep well and I lost my appetite."

After Mrs Griffiths complained to police Mr Williams was arrested and spent a night in police cells but several weeks later the police dropped the case.

Mr Williams told the Truro hearing that Mrs Griffiths had consented to sexual intercourse when he called at the bed-sit to repair a broken door lock.

Paul McCormick, her counsel, said: "Linda Griffiths has struck a blow for the women of this country. Rape will now be regarded as a much more serious matter in relation to damages."

The Crown Prosecution Service said that on the evidence available it had been decided there was no realistic prospect of a conviction in the case. In a criminal case the jury would have had to be satisfied "beyond reasonable doubt" that Mr Williams was guilty, but in the civil action they were allowed to decide on the balance of probabilities.



Buyers checking mistletoe yesterday at the first winter auction of Christmas trees and mistletoe at Tenbury Wells, Hereford and Worcester. The best bunches cost about 75p a pound — a price fall this year, despite the imposition of VAT

Handouts urged for historic houses

By John Young

EXCLUDING private owners of historic houses from National Lottery funding was inexcusable, Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, said yesterday. For too long their contribution to the conservation of important buildings and their contents had not received the recognition it deserved, he said.

Unhappily, there is no shortage of empty listed buildings in various stages of disrepair, he said. "There is also a desperate shortage of individuals prepared to spend hard-earned cash to get them right."

Mr Stevens was speaking at the annual meeting in London of the Historic Houses Association, whose president, William Proby, also said that it was wrong for his members to have been excluded from applying for National Lottery funds.

The orangery at Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire, was officially reopened last night after renovation. Lord Randolph Churchill, its owner in Victorian times, described the view it afforded as the finest in England.

Camelot makes £1m every week from lottery games

By Jon Ashworth

CAMELOT confirmed yesterday that it is making nearly £1 million a week from the National Lottery and scratch-card games. It announced a post-tax profit of £23.6 million for the 24 weeks to September 16, attacked by Labour as excessive.

The success of the Saturday draw and Instant games boosted sales to more than £2.5 billion. Nearly £1.3 billion was paid in prizes, and £679 million went to good causes; £301 million was paid in duty. The Camelot consortium members — Rascal, ICL, De La Rue, Cadbury Schweppes and GTECH — receive an interim dividend of £9.5 million to help to cover bid costs of £10 million.

Labour criticised the level of

profits, and reaffirmed its pledge to seek a non-profit making operator when Camelot's seven-year contract expires. Jack Cunningham, Shadow National Heritage Secretary, said: "This is excessive by any standards and well above what was predicted or intended at the time of legislation. Camelot has a licence to print tickets and another to print money."

Tim Holley, chief executive of Camelot, said: "I am proud of the profit we are making. I make no apologies for it whatsoever." Camelot, he said, had undertaken to retain the lowest percentage in profits, when submitting its bid to run the National Lottery. Competitors would either have made more

money or been less efficient. Camelot's profits after tax represent 0.9 per cent of sales. Rivals included Richard Branson, who pledged to run the lottery on a non-profit basis.

Sales for Saturday's televised draw have stabilised at about £65 million a week. Weekly sales of Instant games have tumbled from £44 million to £25 million in the face of fierce competition. The National Lottery has about 20 million regular players.

Camelot has no immediate plans to introduce a midweek televised draw. It would consider capping the jackpot to avoid excessive payouts "if the mood of the nation dictates", but is concerned about the impact on ticket sales.

Dentists extract victory from long title fight

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

THE gentle art of drilling and filling will never be the same. In future, the General Dental Council has ruled, dentists can call themselves doctors without it being deemed serious professional misconduct.

Younger dentists are expected to adopt the new honorific in large numbers, as surveys at dental schools show 95 per cent in favour. Older practitioners may remain content as plain Mr. Mrs or Miss.

The change follows a five-year campaign launched by dentist Douglas Pike — now Dr Pike — who said: "It will bring us in line with the rest of the world. Dentists could come here from abroad and use the title. We could on exchange visits but not in the UK. It seemed irrational."

A spokesman for the General Dental Council admitted that confusion had been caused by the use of the title Doctor by European dentists who can practise in Britain. "The implication is that they are better than British dentists and they're not," he said. But he does not expect all Britain's 30,000 dentists to make the change, which is entirely voluntary.

Dentists spend five years at university, and the first two are on courses shared with medical students. There is a further year's compulsory vocational training if they want to practise in the NHS.

Dentistry was not seriously established in Britain until the 19th century. Before that, there were mainly itinerant teeth-pullers, sometimes dressed in colourful clothing and accompanied by musicians to drown the cries of their patients. Even after the Dentists Act of 1878, anybody could practise dentistry provided he did not claim to be a dentist.

Dr Pike said that many patients already call their dentists "doctor", and then get embarrassed about it. "It is easier to call someone doctor if they have a difficult surname," he said.

But then, it's difficult to call your dentist anything when your mouth is wide open and full of sharp instruments.

Wildlife activists step up pressure on league head

By Michael Hornsby, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

THE head of Britain's leading anti-hunting body was last night under growing pressure to resign to head off a revolt by activists who accuse him of betraying their cause in remarks he made about fox-hunting.

James Barrington, executive director of the League Against Cruel Sports for the past seven years, said he was being hounded by extremists bent on usurping power.

Lord Soper, the league's president, said he might have to consider his position if Mr Barrington was forced out. "He is a good fellow and I have complete confidence in him. There is no reason why we all have to agree on every

aspect of anti-hunting policy," Mr Barrington said. "The animal rightists are attempting to take over this organisation and they will wreck it. They just cannot see beyond the end of their nose. Their own damn principles are more important than what they are actually trying to do."

Agitation for Mr Barrington's removal began a month ago after he suggested in an interview with *The Field* magazine that fox-hunting could acquire "a new lease of life" by modifying some practices, including stopping the use of terriers to dig out foxes which go to ground.

At an emergency meeting of the league's executive commit-

tee on Saturday, Mr Barrington was instructed to take two months' paid leave to reconsider his remarks. He was also told to reinstate two senior members of his staff, Kevin Saunders, a press officer, and Michelle Bryan, an administrative assistant, whom he sacked in October. He has refused to comply.

The strongest opposition to Mr Barrington comes from the league's standing conference of regional representatives and local activists. They accuse him of "bringing [the league] into disrepute, seriously disconcerting its friends, providing comfort to its enemies and inhibiting our joint efforts to protect wildlife."

MP's widow gives £10,000 to his illegitimate son

By Gillian Bowditch
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE widow of Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, the former Conservative MP, has promised to give £10,000 to the child he fathered out of wedlock with an Australian teacher.

Suzanne Fairbairn, 53, is also planning to give £10,000 to each of the MP's three daughters from his first marriage despite Sir Nicholas's decision on his deathbed to cut them out of his will.

Lady Fairbairn has just sold Fordell Castle in Fife, the home Sir Nicholas bought for a pittance and lovingly restored, for £500,000.

She found out about Sir Nicholas's son Edward Mullen, 9, after her husband's death. Paddy Mullen, the boy's mother, wrote to ask if Edward could visit Fordell Castle and meet his three half-sisters. Lady Fairbairn has since found photographs of the child among Sir Nicholas's papers with a Christmas card signed by the boy.

Lady Fairbairn, who married the MP in 1983, said yesterday that she had found news of her husband's affair difficult to bear. "I find it to be frank, that he should father a son so soon after we were married, really rather bad judgment on both their parts. I did not expect fidelity but I thought that was really not very good. I thought the timing was very poor. She had been coming here since 1978, it had been going on that long. It makes the mourning easier."

"I still love him. I just feel that it was completely il-



Lady Fairbairn: leaving memories behind her

luded." Lady Fairbairn denied there had been a rift with Sir Nicholas's daughters which had led to the change in the will, or that Sir Nicholas had not known what he was doing when he added a codicil to his will hours before his death which revoked the legacies of £10,000 to each of his daughters.

"Nicky was absolutely composed," she said. "He was frail in health but his brain was absolutely up and running. It never failed him. I knew he was doing it. There wasn't any money to give them. There will be, of course, once Fordell is sold. They will get their money."

Lady Fairbairn said she had had no option but to sell the castle and move south. It has become expensive to run and there were memories that she would rather leave behind. She plans to make a new life for herself in the South of England.

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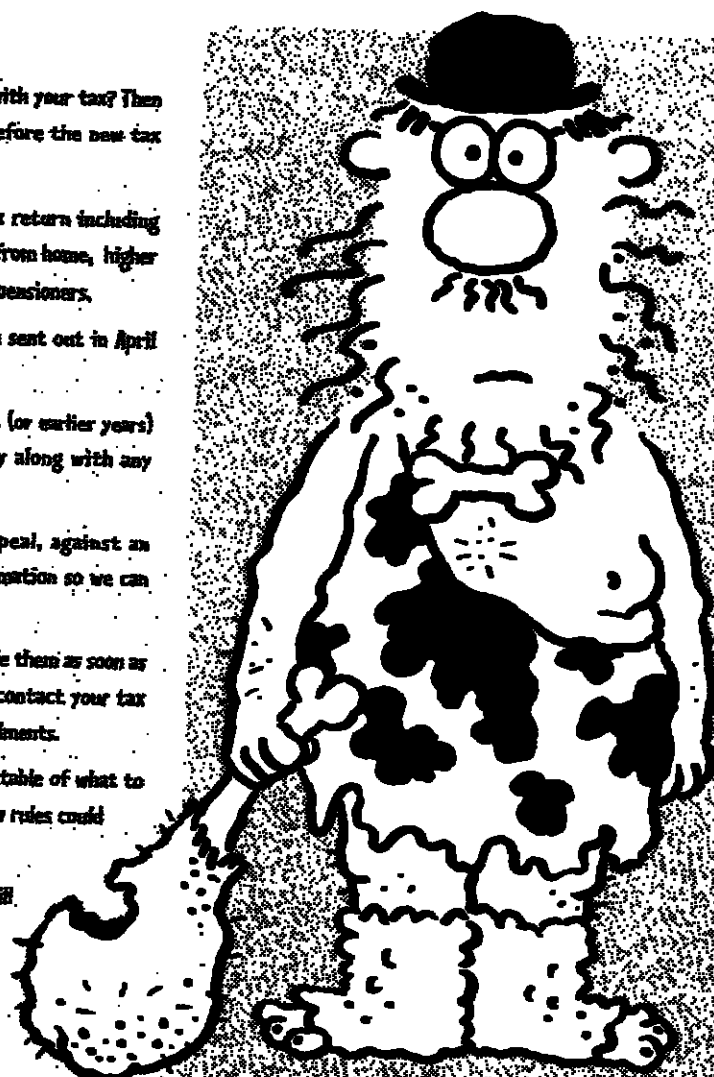
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'Aggressive bug' claims five lives

School closes after two pupils die from meningitis

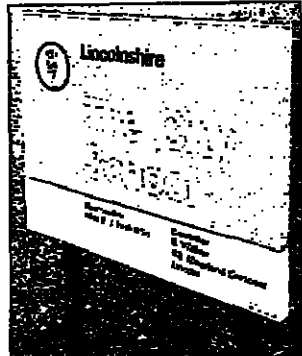
By TIM JONES

MORE than 750 children and teachers were sent home yesterday and their school shut after an outbreak of meningitis that has claimed the lives of five people.

Two of the victims were pupils at the City School, Lincoln. Another pupil, Caroline East, 14, was critically ill at the Lincoln County Hospital last night after being diagnosed as another victim of meningococcal meningitis. An unnamed man from Lincoln, thought to be aged 40, was also critically ill in a Nottingham hospital.

Caroline's stepfather was at her bedside yesterday. He said: "She is on a ventilator to help her breathing. She's a very sick girl but hopefully she has responded to the drugs."

"The next hours are crucial. If she can maintain this level, things may improve. One moment she was full of life



and enjoying a good hearty dinner and now she is fighting for her life.

"She started complaining of a sore throat on Sunday night. She was sick throughout the night. In the morning I checked a leaflet from the City School and realised she could have meningitis so it's thanks to the school that we got her to hospital as soon as we did. "Everything has been done that could be done. Everyone

has been absolutely brilliant and now all we can do is wait and pray." A hospital spokeswoman said: "She is extremely ill but fighting."

Before the decision was taken to close the school, hundreds of pupils aged between 13 and 16 were given swab tests and antibiotics. Trained counsellors visited the school to calm anxious pupils and parents. The school's fatal casualties were named as Sam Binns, 15, who died on Monday, and Kelly Roberts, also 15, who died on October 30 from the same strain of meningitis.

The other victims who died were Robert Newlin and Alex Kyri, both 19, and Sam Cook, ten months old.

Dr Michael Le Geyt, consultant in communicable diseases to Lincolnshire Health Authority, said: "I am concerned because this is the largest number of deaths close together, from what appears to be the same disease, that I have seen for a very long time. It may be that we are dealing with a very aggressive form of the bug."

Barbara Peck, head teacher at the school, said: "The tragedy and shock is awful. The important thing is that we don't want to panic people and that we take the right course of action."

Jeff Deacon, of Lincolnshire Education Authority, said the school was being closed to allow tests by medical staff. It might reopen tomorrow.

The health authority has advised people to watch for the symptoms, such as headache, fever, vomiting, neck stiffness, joint pains, drowsiness, dislike of bright lights, red spot rash or bruises.

Ray Thompson, of the Meningitis Trust, urged parents not to panic: "It is perfectly understandable that people are worried. The fact does remain that meningitis is a very uncommon disease."

Headmistress tells of rise in eating disorder

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

GIRLS at independent schools are increasingly suffering from eating disorders such as bulimia, a headmistress said yesterday. Penelope Penney, president of the Girls' Schools Association, was speaking hours after the Princess of Wales described her own battle with the compulsive eating disease.

Mrs Penney said that young girls were more likely to binge or starve themselves than to take drugs and that a worrying number of schools were having to deal with eating disorders.

Speaking at the association's annual conference in London, Mrs Penney blamed

advertisers for perpetuating the myth that girls had to be "like stick insects" to be attractive and loved. The headmistress of The Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls in Elstree, Hertfordshire, said: "I believe the pressure on our young women is a serious problem. It is exacerbated by the appalling demands of advertising, the waif-like thinness of the new models, the beginnings of anorexia."

Youngsters were highly vulnerable to the idea that they had to conform to an image to be loved, instead of learning to love themselves and be loved for themselves, Mrs Penney said. "This inability to love themselves for what they are can lead to disorders like bulimia and anorexia."



A pair of Nureyev's ballet shoes, described in the catalogue as "considerably soiled", still sold for £12,075

Bids soar for Nureyev's old shoes

By JOHN SHAW

A BATTERED pair of ballet shoes worn by Rudolf Nureyev sold for £12,075 as fans scrambled for souvenirs when the contents of his flat in Paris were sold at Christie's in London yesterday.

Amid feverish bidding, the price of the faded pink shoes, stamped with the dancer's size 7EEE, leapt beyond the £300-£500 estimate. One woman who bid heavily but unsuccessfully on several lots broke down in tears.

Pictures, furniture and other works of art drew the trade but the star's personal ephemera brought the fans. Nureyev rarely threw his ballet shoes away. Some were in pristine condition, but the

£12,000 shoes, for example, were described in the catalogue as "considerably soiled and worn, patches and repairs at the toes, one repaired at the heel".

The top lot was six pairs of boots which shot to £28,750, 14 times the high estimate of £2,000. They were among 21 lots of shoes and boots bought for a total of £79,572 by Albert Cohen and his wife, of Long Island, New York.

The dancer bought many of his ballet shoes at Gamba, in north London, the firm that once supplied Anna Pavlova. A spokeswoman told of their auction price said: "Unbelievable, quite unbelievable."

The shoes overshadowed other items from his wardrobe, such as ballet costumes,

from classic roles. A maroon velvet tunic from *The Sleeping Beauty* sold for £5,750 and his costume as the golden slave in *Scheherazade* took £4,485.

But many of those looking for a memento of the star, who died from an AIDS-related illness in 1993, left empty-handed or made do with auction merchandise: scarves and posters were produced to mark the two-day auction, which is expected to make about £2 million. One fan simply took home a lot ticket inscribed "Christie's, Nureyev".

The dancer's best known partnership was with Dame Margot Fonteyn at Covent Garden in the Sixties and Seventies. A pair of silver

inlaid photograph frames, one containing a black and white picture of her, was bid to £1,092 (£400-£600).

A plated silver inscribed with details of the Royal Ballet's outstanding productions from the era engraved "For Rudi in celebration of his Bayadere, 27 November 1963" made £4,830 (£300-£500).

The most intimate souvenir was probably a white metal pendant of Kermit the Frog, a souvenir of the dancer's appearance on *The Muppet Show* in 1978. Nureyev attached it to a second pendant of a pliable penis inscribed "Yesterday today and tomorrow". It sold — anonymously — to a commission bidder for £1,207 (£200-£300).

Drink causes young 'ten times more damage than drugs'

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

DRINKING among young people is causing ten times more damage than drugs but its dangers are being ignored, doctors said yesterday.

On average, boys aged 13 drink four pints of beer or the equivalent a week, and about one in five has been drunk once or more in the past year. Thirteen-year-old girls drink the equivalent of three pints of beer a week and one in eight admits to having been drunk.

A report, *Alcohol and the Young*,

by the Royal College of Physicians and the British Paediatric Association, says drinking by young people is at a "worryingly high level". It says girls in England aged 11 to 16 drink more alcohol than contemporaries in France or Spain.

Professor Sir Leslie Turnbull, president of the college, said: "The impact that drugs have on the young has received huge publicity. What is not so widely recognised is that alcohol causes ten times as much damage as drugs."

Alcohol produces violent behaviour, is implicated in a third of male

teenage suicides and leads to unprotected sex. "Its social impact is very large indeed. As a society we tend to be tolerant of drink-related behaviour and this report suggests that perhaps we take tolerance too far," Professor Turnbull said.

Manufacturers of alcoholic colas and lemonades, aimed directly at the teenage market and containing up to 5.5 per cent alcohol by volume, were "hoodwinking" the young, Professor Turnbull said. "With names like 'Lemon Lips' and 'Cola Lips' they sound as if they are delightful cola drinks but they

contain the same amount of alcohol as beer. It is rather insidious."

The report says that the dangers of alcohol operate throughout life, beginning at conception. Women are advised to avoid drinking around conception and for the first few weeks of pregnancy when the foetus is at its most vulnerable.

Professor Roy Meadow, president of the British Paediatric Association, said: "Accidents are the major killer and maimer of children today. Usually it is a young child playing on the pavement or crossing the road who is mown down by a driver

who all too often has had too much to drink."

Professor Philip Graham, who led the working party that produced the report, said young people were drinking more than was realised. "I am not too worried about children of 13 having the occasional drink. What worries me is that they get into trouble. One in three boys and one in five girls has got into arguments and fights after drinking."

Among 35 recommendations, the report says the real price of alcohol should be regularly increased by taxation to discourage young people

from drinking. Tighter regulation to limit sales promotion to the young (including curbs on arts and sports sponsorship by companies selling alcohol) should be introduced.

It says legislation is needed to require companies to label drinks with the number of alcohol units they contain and the present legal limit of 80 milligrams of alcohol in the blood for drivers should be lowered for learner drivers.

Alcohol and the Young (Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, Regents Park, London NW1 4LE; £7.50)

Churches honour pub bomb casualties

Churches honour pub bomb casualties

A memorial service was held yesterday for the 21 people killed in the Birmingham pub bombings. Bereaved relatives and those hurt in the explosions on November 21, 1974, had long called for such a service to be held.

The Bishop of Aston, the Rt Rev John Austin, the assistant bishop, the Rt Rev Terence Bram, and the Birmingham president of the United Reformed Church, the Rev Irene Band, led the service at St Philip's Cathedral. The first memorial in the city was unveiled to the victims of the bombings.

Behaving badly

Martin Chunes, 33, star of the BBC1 comedy *Men Behaving Badly*, was fined £350 and banned from driving for a year yesterday at Clerkenwell Magistrates' Court, central London, after admitting driving while 18 micrograms over the alcohol limit.

Travel turmoil

Rail, air and sea travel will be disrupted by industrial action by French workers on Friday. High-speed Channel Tunnel Eurostar trains from London will also be unable to reach Brussels because of strikes on Belgian railways tomorrow and on Friday.

Ferry plunge

Firefighters struggled for an hour to beat an incoming tide, in the rescue of a man trapped in his van on rocks at Fishguard, Dyfed. The vehicle had fallen 30ft nose-down from a ferry ramp. The man's son scrambled clear. Neither was seriously hurt.

Work toll down

An estimated 283 workers died in accidents last year, the lowest since records began last century. But work accidents which killed members of the public are thought to have risen to 123, according to figures from the Health and Safety Commission.

Family values

A 6th Henry Moore bronze was acquired by an anonymous bidder for £124,700 at Phillips in London yesterday. The sculpture features a family group of two adults and two children. The vendor believes her father bought the piece in 1951 for £50.

Wines take off

British Airways has ordered wine worth £30,000 from the Chapel Wines vineyard in Tenterden, Kent, to serve on its flights. The order is the vineyard's biggest with 200 cases of its top wine reserved for first class and 1,000 cases for general consumption.

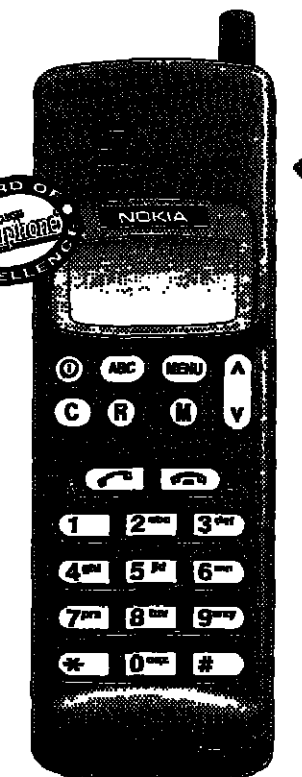
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Drug makes cancer cells commit suicide

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A PIONEERING therapy to be launched at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London aims to persuade cancer cells to commit suicide. Thirty patients with lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph glands, are to be treated with a drug designed to block the operation of a gene that makes their cancer cells immortal.

Normal cells are programmed to die after they have divided a certain number of times. But tumours often spread because their cells have lost this ability, and go on dividing indefinitely. Programmed cell death, known as apoptosis, is the process by which organs are shaped and kept under control; when it fails, cancer can follow.

Now a team led by Dr David Cunningham, head of the lymphoma unit at the Marsden, is to test an American-made drug designed to restore cancer cells to normal functioning. The drug, Anticodex G3139, blocks the operation of the BCL2 gene, which has been found to be especially active in patients with drug-resistant lymphomas.

The technique is known as "antisense" because the drug consists of a length of the genetic material DNA designed to cancel out the DNA of the BCL2 gene. As the cancer cells divide, the drug binds to the gene and prevents it from producing the protein that makes the tumour cells immortal. The result should be to restore them to normal function. Tests in animals by Genia, the drug's manufacturers, have shown encouraging results.

Dr Cunningham said: "Research in the laboratory has yielded very promising results which suggest that antisense could be a real alternative to conventional radiotherapy and chemotherapy." Lymphomas are increasing, and in Britain last year 6,000 cases of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma were diagnosed.

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Judge orders restart of police shooting inquiry

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

DISCIPLINARY proceedings against the commander of a firearms team that killed a mentally ill farmer who was armed with a gun were ordered to be restarted by the High Court yesterday.

Ian Hay, 39, was shot at his home near Totnes, Devon, in October 1993 after police were called to investigate reports that he had opened fire. A verdict of lawful killing was returned at an inquest after police said they had feared they would be shot, but Mr Hay's family accused the police of overreacting.

The Hays, who were supported by the Police Complaints Authority, criticised the way a disciplinary hearing against Chief Inspector Alan McArthur, head of the force's firearms unit, was halted. They also attacked John Evans, Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall police, for allowing Superintendent Roger



Hay: police feared that he would shoot them

Mechan, who had been sent to take charge of the operation, to resign on the ground of ill health.

Yesterday Mr Justice Sedley said the decision to halt the disciplinary hearing because it was held too long after the incident had been wrong. Walter Girvan, the Chief Constable of Wiltshire, who was called to take the hearing, had committed a "misdirection in

law". One reason for the 17-month delay was Mr Girvan's busy schedule.

However, the judge refused to intervene over Mr McArthur. Mr Evans had failed to explain his reasoning but he had received reports from three doctors saying that the superintendent was suffering from mental illness. If he had remained in service, there would have been allegations of neglect of duty.

Later Mr Evans said the disciplinary hearing would be restarted. He said the court decision did not mean Mr McArthur was guilty and he still denied any charge of neglect of duty. There was no criticism of the actions of the officers who opened fire.

After the decision, Mr Hay's sister Guida said the family was delighted with the decision. "I feel the police are not above the law — they should just uphold it," she said. "Nobody is denying Ian did wrong but it didn't warrant being killed like that."

Cockatoo eggs found in underpants, court told

By A STAFF REPORTER

CUSTOMS officers smashed a smuggling gang when they found the eggs of rare cockatoos hidden in a bricklayer's underpants and vest, a court was told yesterday. Christopher Owen was caught as he was about to board a flight back to Britain from Australia.

The eggs of 29 protected species were sewn into his underwear so that he could keep them warm during the journey, Huw Davies, for the prosecution, told Carmarthen Crown Court. The eggs were worth £101,000 on the black market when hatched.

Mr Davies said Mr Owen was

searched at Perth International Airport. "He was carrying the eggs in such a way as to minimise detection. He wore a vest and underpants that had been kitted out with little pockets just big enough for the birds' eggs."

He said that after he was searched, Mr Owen made a telephone call to his father Terence in Wales, saying: "Dad, they've got me. They were waiting for me. They know everything."

The court was told that the men were part of a gang which also involved Terence Owen's daughters Denise and Nicola. Terence Owen, 51, a taxi proprietor, Denise Owen, 29, a computer programmer, and Nicola

Roderick, 27, a seamstress, all of Llanbydder, Dyfed, deny conspiring to evade restrictions on the importation of protected birds.

The jury was told that Christopher Owen was being dealt with by the authorities in Australia. Two other men in Dyfed — Alan Vaughan Griffiths, of Llandysul, and David Farmer, of Haverfordwest — had admitted their role and would be sentenced at the end of the trial.

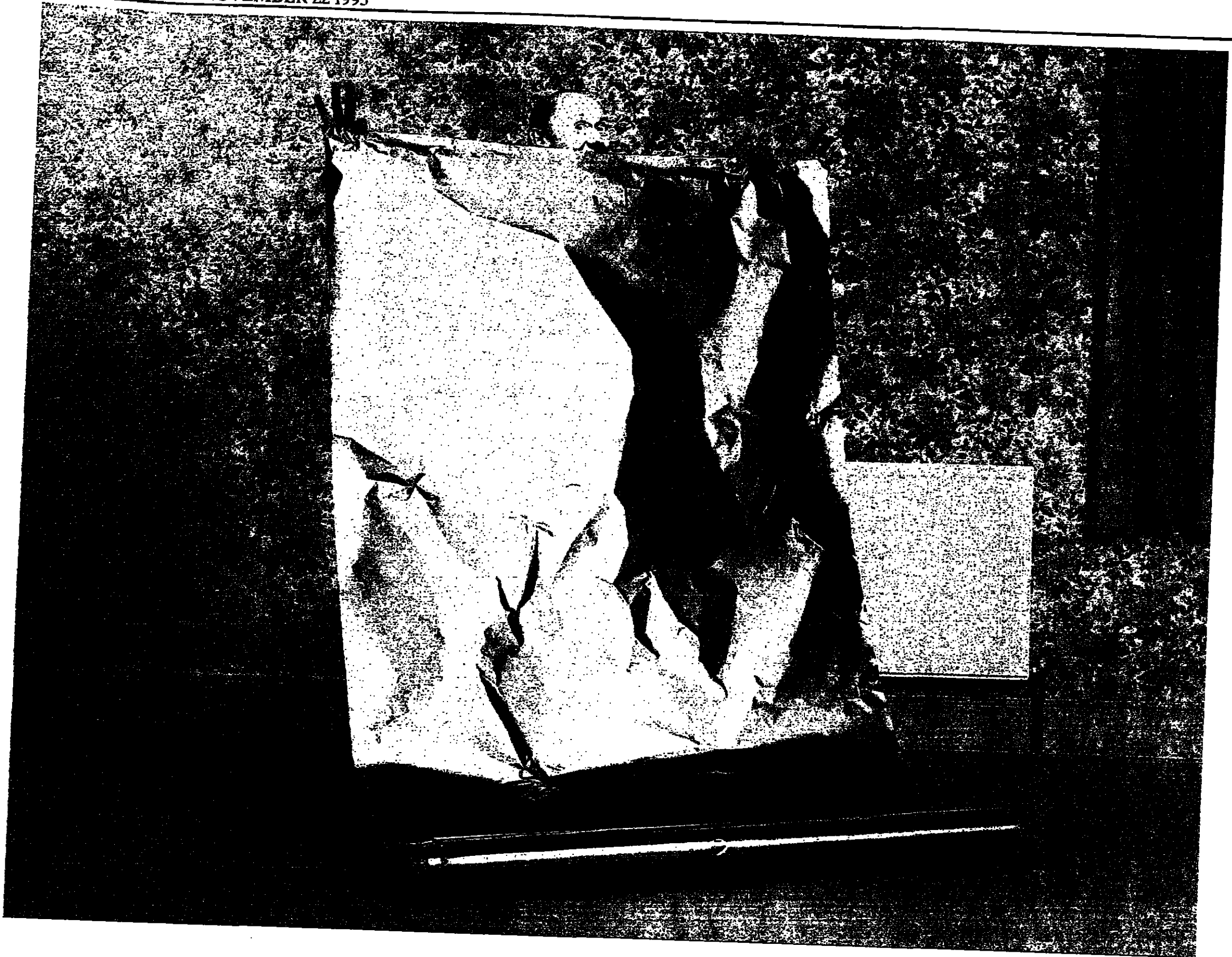
Mr Davies, claiming that the three defendants had agreed to be couriers, said: "There is a lucrative black market in these birds' eggs. They are worth astonishing amounts of money

because their movement is restricted. It is an illicit market and those who take part stand to make large profits."

He said that after Christopher Owen's arrest, police raided a house in Perth which turned out to be the nervecentre of the trade run by an Australian, Bill Grumbie. They found aviaries and incubators, with documents which led to the three defendants in Wales.

Police also found a brassiere fitted with pouches for female couriers to wear. They arrested another courier as he prepared to fly to New Zealand with 26 eggs.

The case continues.



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Brittan says single market will suffer without monetary union



By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S senior European commissioner has given a warning that the single market could fall apart if the EU fails to go ahead with a single currency.

Sir Leon Brittan has rejected the increasing demands of Euro-sceptics for the Government to rule out joining a single currency during the lifetime of the next Parliament, saying that it would ensure that Britain lost any

further influence over the setting up of economic and monetary union.

Sir Leon, writing in next month's *Prospect* magazine, says that suggestions that Europe is going cool on EMU are misleading. If anything it is more likely than ever. "We should be under no illusions. EMU really is likely to happen."

Conclusions should not be drawn from the fact that finance ministers are focusing on 1999 rather than 1997 as the start date. "This is not a

sign of weakened commitment. Rather they feel that it is more important to ensure that the move to a single currency is done properly than that it is done at all."

But in his starkest message about the dangers of not proceeding with a single currency, Sir Leon says that without it the single market could unravel. The single market went much deeper than simple free trade.

"We have spent a great deal of energy over the past eight

years ensuring that it is not only barriers at the borders which are eliminated, but also those barriers which exist because of differing rules in Europe on public procurement, national standards and state aids. It is this work which makes the single market unique — and it is this sort of work which could be at risk if we had no effective macro economic co-operation in Europe."

He says that European Commission figures show that between a quarter and a

half of one percentage point has been wiped off European growth figures this year as a result of the economic and psychological effects of exchange-rate fluctuations. There was plenty of evidence to show that exchange-rate uncertainty not only reduced trade but led to the postponement of important economic decisions.

With its opt-out Britain can decide whether or not it wants to join once it is clear whether EMU is going to happen, who is going to be in

it, and on what terms. "If we say today that we will not participate in a single currency for at least another five years it will have one certain effect: we shall be ensuring that the UK loses any further influence over the process of setting up EMU."

"The UK should take no decisions for the time being. Instead we should devote our energies to ensuring that we play the fullest possible part in all of the discussions which are taking place about the European single currency."

Sir Leon said the idea that France and Germany would fall out over economic and monetary union stood up only if one believed that French and German goals were incompatible. The experience of the past ten years suggested the opposite. There was no reason to believe that EMU contained the seeds of its own destruction. There was no evidence to suggest that Germany would, even if it could, insist on interest rates that crippled the rest of Europe.

Peer seeking to outlaw restaurant hidden extras

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

RESTAURANT tipping and cover charges could be wiped off the menu if a Private Member's Bill launched yesterday is successful.

The Earl of Bradford has joined forces with the British Tourist Board, restaurant critics and the Consumers' Association to introduce a Bill in the Lords that will outlaw the "hidden extras" charged by restaurants. He has already gained wide cross-party support and the Government has said that it will consider the Bill seriously.

Supporters of the Bill are furious at the way many restaurants automatically add 15 per cent for service to the cost of a meal. Some leave the total on credit card slips empty in the hope that unsuspecting customers will pay the service charge again.

The Bill, which aims to bring Britain into line with most other European countries, calls for waiters' salaries to be included in the price of the food so there is no confusion.

Restaurants would have to print in a prominent place on the menu: "Our prices are fully inclusive and our staff do not expect a tip or gratuity." The Bill's supporters also complain that restaurants are increasingly charging cover prices without explaining what they are for. The Bill would require restaurants to admit whether such charges were for olives, bread, laundering tablecloths or for entertainment. All restaurant bills would have to be legible and comprehensible.

Lord Bradford, owner of Porters restaurant in Covent Garden, London, helped to launch a code of conduct last year but he said yesterday that it had been ignored by most of the trade and a change in the law was now the only option. "Service charges do great harm to tourism, as visitors constantly complain that they never know what practice a particular restaurant adopts," Lord Bradford said.

"If you go into a shoe shop

you are not expected to tip a shop assistant for bringing the shoes to you. You don't have to tip the chef who makes the food — only the people who bring it from the kitchen."

"Waiters should give good service because that is their job. But even if they don't under the present system it takes an unusually robust type of customer to refuse to pay the service once it has been added to the total."

The Consumers' Association has been pressing for a change in the law for ten years. Helen Parker, Editor of the association's *Which?* magazine, said: "Restaurant charges are an unjustified anomaly. If customers wanted to tip for excellent service they could, but most of the time they shouldn't have to worry about it. Customers have no idea whether they can refuse to pay a tip and waiters often make them feel intimidated." Many restaurants said they would welcome the Bill. Antonio Carluccio, owner of

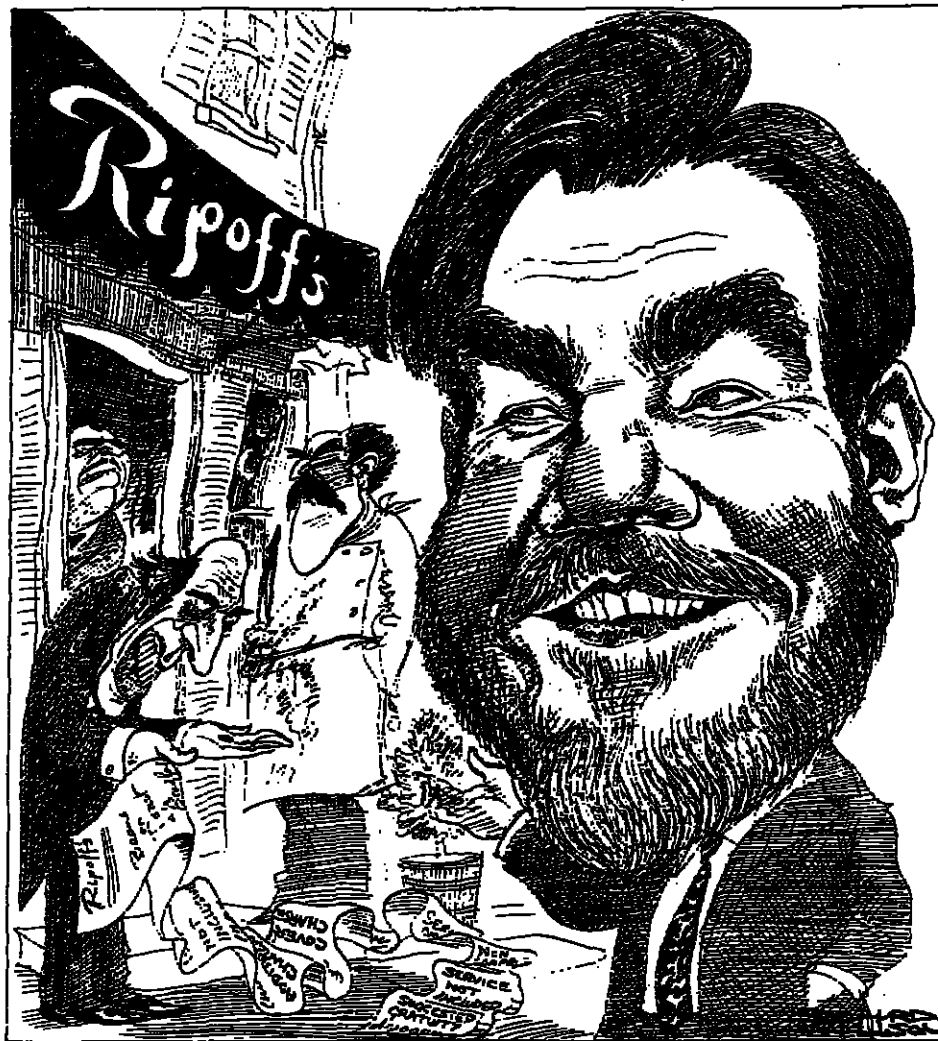
the Neal Street Restaurant, said: "It's a wonderful idea. Finally everyone would do the same and the customer would be able to make a proper comparison."

At 190 Queensgate, Antony Worrall-Thompson includes no hidden extras. "You don't tip a butcher for cutting up your meat. Why should you expect to tip a waiter for good service," he said.

The restaurant critic Fay Maschler said: "The French system, where what you see is what you pay, is much better. Service should be given readily without a bribe. But some restaurants do survive on hidden extras and it might drive them to the wall."

Sue Garland, assistant director of the British Tourist Authority, said: "Visitors spend £2 billion a year on eating out and they get extremely confused about the British billing system. This has to be sorted out now."

The Bill will have a second reading in January.



Blair hails Labour as party of fair tax

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR promised last night that there would be no tax rises for the ordinary working family under a Labour government.

The Labour leader said that any tax cuts would help middle and low-income groups rather than the "privileged few" that stood to gain if the Tories abolished capital gains tax and inheritance tax.

The Prime Minister, however, said that voters would not be fooled by Labour attempts to shake off its high-tax image. During a Commons clash with Mr Blair he defended Tory tax rises since the last election as a necessary measure to protect the needy.

Later Mr Blair told the Association of British Editors in London that if there was room for tax cuts they should be fair. Labour's proposals to cut VAT on fuel and introduce a 10p starting rate on income tax would benefit millions of lower-paid and middle-income families, whereas the Tories planned to £2.3 billion in tax cuts for 5,000 of the wealthiest people in Britain. The average family paid £800 more each year in tax than at the last election. "Given that punishment on ordinary working families the last thing I want to do is to add to their tax burden."

But Mr Blair warned his colleagues of tough choices on welfare spending and emphasised that special interest groups could not be protected.

Dorrell heralds capital boost for hospital building

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

STEPHEN DORRELL predicted a boost to the hospital building programme yesterday as a result of the Government's decision to turn to private finance for big capital projects.

The Health Secretary said that the private finance initiative (PFI), now

progressing after a slow start, meant that plans for badly needed new facilities would not be suddenly dropped because of Treasury cuts.

Mr Dorrell, speaking to the Royal College of Physicians in London, sought to allay fears that the PFI was a backdoor route to privatisation. "The NHS will continue to be committed to the provision of a universal health service, free at the

point of delivery, and largely funded from taxation," he said. "Furthermore, the PFI is not intended to herald a new period of upheaval in the NHS."

Next week's Budget is expected to mark a renewed push for the PFI in which private capital will replace public sector investment in the building of hospitals. Private firms operating in conjunction with NHS

trusts will bear part of the risk of new projects, building hospitals and leasing them back to the trusts. Sixty PFI hospital schemes are in the pipeline at a total cost of about £2 billion.

Although Mr Dorrell made no announcements, over the next few months he is expected to approve at least four big projects: district general hospitals for Norwich, Bishop Auckland, and Swindon and

Marlborough, and a redevelopment of the South Buckinghamshire Hospital at Amersham.

He said the straitjacket of Treasury controls over private capital in NHS projects had been removed. "Nor is it any longer necessary for viable projects to wait in the queue for public sector capital and trim their sails to the latest wind direction from HM Treasury."



Dorrell: no upheaval

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American switch from 'nickel and dime' policy on Bosnia paved way for final pact

Border blockade by Milosevic seen as turning point

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE signing of a peace deal to end the three-and-a-half years of war in Bosnia was made possible only because of an American policy switch in mid-summer and two crucial events involving the boldest political schemer of all in former Yugoslavia, President Milosevic.

For three years, every effort made by European peace envoys and United Nations commanders in Bosnia-Herzegovina to forge an agreement between the warring parties was undermined by the fact that the United States was not interested in getting involved — apart from politically backing the Muslims — and Mr Milosevic, the Serbian leader, was not prepared to ditch the Bosnian Serbs.

The beginning of the end of the war began in August last year, when Mr Milosevic broke off his relationship with the Bosnian Serbs and imposed a blockade of the border between Serbia and Serb-occupied Bosnia across the Drina River. A year later, the Bosnian Serb leadership suddenly decided to sue for peace and handed over their negotiating rights to the Serbian President. By this time, President Clinton had also decided to get off the fence and go for an American-inspired comprehensive peace.

Until that moment, in the summer, Washington's policy had been almost exclusively negative. Any peace plans produced by the Europeans were criticised. Senior UN commanders say they have evidence that briefings given to visiting American officials about developments in Bosnia were twisted in cables sent back to Washington, to avoid any risk of America's dropping its openly partisan support for the Muslims.

Even the initiative pushed by Robert Frasure, the American envoy killed in a road accident in August, which was aimed at persuading Mr Milosevic to recognise Bosnia in



Milosevic: boldest political schemer

return for a partial lifting of sanctions against Belgrade, was not prepared to ditch the Bosnian Serbs.

Two Americans did more than anyone else to persuade President Clinton to stop the inter-departmental bickering in Washington and what was described as the "nickel and dime" policy on Bosnia, and to go for a comprehensive peace deal that finally would stop

MAINPOINTS

- Bosnia-Herzegovina is preserved as a single state within its present borders, and with international recognition.
- The state consists of the Bosnian and Croat Federation and the Bosnian Serb Republic, with a "fair" distribution.
- Sarajevo stays united under a central Government, with a national parliament, presidency and constitutional court.
- The presidency and parliament will be elected democratically.
- Refugees will be allowed to return home. People will be able to move freely and human rights will be monitored.
- Convicted war criminals will be barred from office. (AFP)

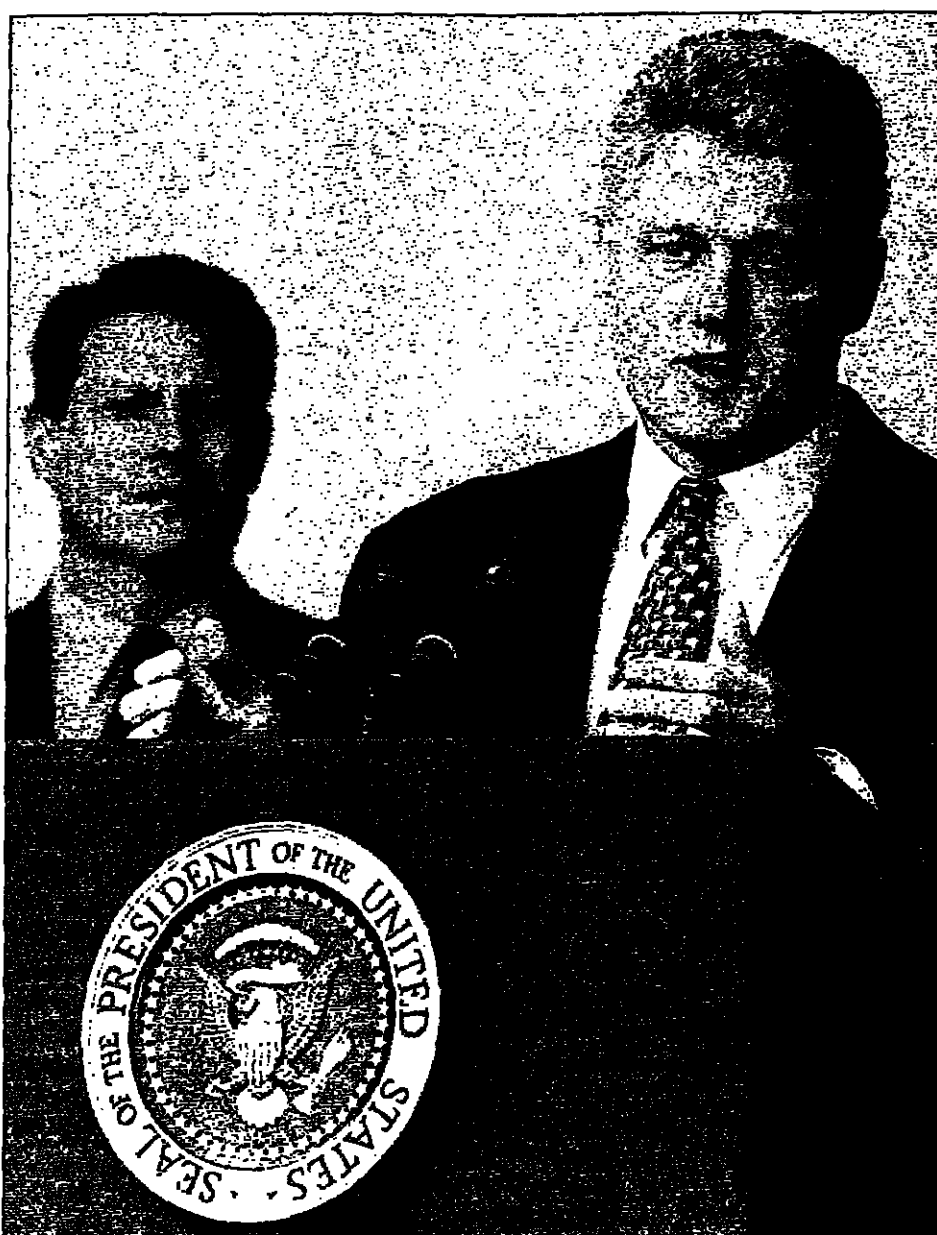
the war: General John Galvin, former Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, who as a retired American officer, arrived in former Yugoslavia in March last year in a quasi-official role to sort out the Croatian Army, and Richard Holbrooke, the indefatigable envoy who grasped the Bosnia issue and bludgeoned the key players into a peace deal.

General Galvin, who has a sharp brain and is a good listener, was the first American to arrive in the region who understood what the war was all about. He is understood to have briefed Mr Clinton. Although the foreign policy switch did not happen until the next year, the decision to give Croatia every help in developing its army led to important results.

By the time Croatia launched its offensive against the Serbs in Krajina in August this year and in western Bosnia in September, President Tudjman's army had been transformed into an effective fighting force with some stunning new equipment. Nobody knows for sure where the new weapons came from, but the result was that the Serbs were routed. By then Mr Holbrooke was well into his shuttle diplomacy between Zagreb, Belgrade and Sarajevo and the ingredients for a peace deal were coming together.

Another crucial event accelerated the peace process: the Nato bombing campaign, backed by UN artillery fire, which caused heavy damage to the Bosnian Serb communications and radar sites at the end of August and beginning of September, enabled the Bosnian and Croat federation forces, backed by the Croatian Army, to win back big chunks of territory in western Bosnia. The peace map division giving the Serbs 49 per cent and the federation 51 per cent became a reality.

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Leading article, page 19



President Clinton, with Vice-President Al Gore, announcing in the White House Rose Garden yesterday that a Bosnian peace settlement had been reached

Joy tainted by doubts

WHEN words of peace and hope finally came to Sarajevo yesterday, the cold and snowy Bosnian capital was stunned, thrilled and suspicious.

Boris Nilevic, 47, a history professor, waited impatiently for almost 48 hours in front of his television until he saw President Clinton's face on the screen. Mr Clinton's announcement of the peace deal to end the tragedy and bloodshed was something Mr Nilevic and most of the city's residents have waited years to hear.

The announcement was shown live in Belgrade. Za-

SARAJEVO

greb, on Bosnian Serb, and on Bosnian government television. "Are you kidding me? They really signed a peace deal? This is superb!" Seja Kulenovic, 28, shouted.

Mr Nilevic was biting his fingernails nervously. "This is great, but how long it is going to last," he muttered to himself. Halid Begic, a 40-year-old Bosnian Army soldier, stroked through central Sarajevo morgues after Mr Clinton announced the deal. "Nothing better could be done,

and it was about time," he said. "However, it is best to stay in the trenches to stay safe."

The sense of relief mixed with uncertainty was reproduced in the Bosnian Serb headquarters in Pale.

"I would be the happiest man in the world if it would last, but it is impossible," Petja, 25, from Sarajevo, said. "We can never live together again."

Miodrag Pekic, 27, also from Sarajevo, was sceptical as well. "It will last until Muslims rearm, and then we will fight again." (AP)

White House hails end of the slaughter

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT CLINTON, announcing a Balkans peace agreement, welcomed the accord yesterday to end the Bosnian conflict as a historic and heroic choice.

Speaking in the White House Rose Garden after the breakthrough in the Dayton talks, Mr Clinton praised the leaders of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia for heeding the will of their peoples.

"The peace plan agreed today would preserve Bosnia as a single state, within its present borders and with international recognition," Mr Clinton said. "The state will comprise two parts, a Bosnian-Croat federation and a Bosnian Serb component, with a fair distribution of land between the two."

The President added: "The capital city of Sarajevo will remain united. There will be an effective central government, including a national parliament, a presidency and a constitutional court."

Mr Clinton called the conflict in Bosnia the worst in Europe since the Second World War. After nearly four years of war with 250,000 people killed, two million refugees, atrocities that have appalled people all over the world, "the people of Bosnia finally have a chance to turn from the horror of war to the promise of peace," he said.

"Whatever their ethnic group, the overwhelming majority of Bosnia's citizens and the citizens of Croatia and Serbia want the same thing. They want to stop the slaughter. They want to put an end to the violence and war. They want to give their children and their grandchildren the chance to lead a normal life. Today, thank God, the voices of those people have been heard."

"I want to congratulate America's negotiating team, led by Secretary [Warren] Christopher and Ambassador [Richard] Holbrooke, for their extraordinary service. Their determination, along with that of our European and Russian partners, along with Nato's

resolve, brought the parties to the negotiating table. Then their single-minded pursuit of peace in Dayton made today's agreement a possibility and eventually a reality."

The President pledged American help in the transformation to peace. "Now that the parties to the war have made a serious commitment to peace, we must help them to make it work," he said. "All the parties have asked for a strong international force to supervise the separation of forces and to give them confidence that each side will live up to their agreements. Only Nato can do that job and the United States, as Nato's leader, must play an essential role

in this mission." Mr Clinton also reaffirmed his determination to include American troops — a contingent of 20,000 is planned — in a Nato force.

"I am satisfied that the Nato implementation plan is clear, limited, and achievable, and that the risks to our troops are minimised. I will promptly consult with Congress when I receive this plan. And if I am fully satisfied with it when I see it in its final form, I will ask Congress to support American participation."

"Without us, the hard-won peace would be lost. The war would resume. The slaughter of innocents would begin again. And the conflict that already has claimed so many people could spread like poison throughout the entire region."

"We are at a decisive moment. The parties have chosen peace. America must choose peace as well. I ask all Americans: in this Thanksgiving week, to take some time to say a simple prayer of thanksgiving for this peace that has been reached, that our nation was able to play an important role in stopping the suffering and the slaughter."

"May God bless the peace and the United States."

Muslims become pawns in keeping lid on Balkans

PEACE in the Balkans will remain a highly relative term, despite the agreement reached in Dayton. Success for the international force to be sent to the region will depend on not applying all the treaty's provisions.

At the very best, Western troops will be able to freeze the current division lines in Bosnia and create a balance of terror between the warring parties. And, despite all the statements to the contrary, a Greater Serbia and a Greater Croatia are now accomplished facts; the only questions are the extent of the frontiers and how precarious the condition of the Muslims will be.

A multi-ethnic Bosnian state is supposed to be re-created. But President Milosevic of Serbia has been accepted as the chief spokesman for Bosnia's Serbs, an explicit admission that they will not be expected to share power with the Muslims.

The deployment of the international force — if or — reflects the ambiguity. Within days, an advance Nato party is expected to arrive. But, in what may turn out to be a major concession, President Clinton has promised to consult Congress before sending the rest of the troops.

Assuming that Congressional approval or funding are granted, the bulk of the force will get to Bosnia within weeks. But whatever the agreements say, military planners have already settled for the lowest achievable aim: the creation of three-kilometre buffer zones ("lines of separation") between Serbs and the Croat-Muslim alliance.

If all goes well, the troops will be able to consolidate the ceasefire and provide some assistance to the inhabitants. But no refugees are likely to return to their original homes. In the first few months, the number of refugees will increase, as divided families seek to be reunited and young men, eager to escape military service, take to the road. With the Western commanders preoccupied by their own logistical problems during the winter, the last problem anyone wants to deal with is refugees. So, the best scenario for Bosnia is that the agreement signed last night is

At best, Western troops will be able to freeze the current division lines and create a balance of terror between the parties, Jonathan Eyal argues in this commentary

actually not implemented in the most important clauses.

The crucial problems will be what the Americans have promised the protagonists. The Europeans have been kept in the dark throughout much of the negotiation process. It is known, however, that one of the Muslim aims has been to obtain American guarantees of military support for years to come. The opportunity for disputes between the

KEY DATES

- Feb 5, 1994: A mortar shell explodes in Sarajevo market, killing 68 people, wounding 200. Nato issues a bombing ultimatum unless Serb heavy guns are removed.
- March 1: Muslims and Croats forge a federation.
- May 26, 1995: Serbs abduct dozens of UN observers.
- June 3-4: Western nations send in a rapid reaction force.
- July: Serb forces overrun Srebrenica and Zepa.
- Aug 4-7: Croatian offensive drives Serbs from Krajina.
- Aug 30: Nato aircraft and UN rapid reaction force attack Serb positions round Sarajevo.
- Sept 9: Principles of a settlement are agreed.
- Sept-Oct: Muslim/Croat alliance launches offensive against Serbs.
- Oct 12: Ceasefire begins.

Europeans and Americans remain immense.

The Europeans fervently hope that they will act as an impartial force in the Balkans. However, supplying one of the protagonists with weapons could only compromise this. But the Americans will have a very real interest in rearming the Muslims, partly to give President Clinton a reason for claiming that Washington has

not compromised its moral duty of defending Muslims.

More importantly, Bosnia will be divided into three sectors: the British in the northwest, the US in the northeast and the French in the south. What if violence takes place in the British and French sectors but not the American one? The Europeans will be under tremendous pressure to change their deployment and purpose, while the Americans will be under no such compunction. Completing the operation with no casualties and in less than a year is the American objective.

In a curious way, the operation is intended to cleanse the Western guilty conscience, rather than reverse the result of ethnic cleansing. When it comes to keeping a Muslim Bosnia down, the Croats and Serbs are potential allies. But while the Serbs pursued Bosnia's carve-up relentlessly and with horrifying results, the Croats achieved practically the same results by stealth.

While posing as Bosnia's ally, President Tudjman has armed the Croats of Bosnia and earlier this month even granted them the right to vote in Croat parliamentary elections — the nearest thing to an outright annexation. To all intents and purposes, Bosnia is destined to remain a Croat protectorate, independent in name but practically tied to President Tudjman. Whenever the Croats create problems, the Serbs could encourage the Bosnians to launch a new offensive. If the Americans want peace in the Balkans, they will have to persuade the Croats to put continuous pressure on the Muslims.

Bosnia's Muslims are no longer the object of the West's policy; they are the subjects of a strategy whose aim is to place a lid on the Balkans, almost regardless of the long-term consequences.

The author is Director of Studies at the Royal United Services Institute in London



Holbrooke: looked to Dayton for austerity

Cunning proved to be asset

Washington: Richard Holbrooke, the American envoy whose robust diplomacy has forged the peace agreement, is one of the few Westerners with the cunning and ruthlessness to play Balkan politicians at their own game.

Mr Holbrooke had come with a show of reluctance last year to his job as Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian affairs, telling visitors that Bosnia was a hopeless case. However,

MAN IN THE NEWS

two developments had opened the way. Croatia's capture of the Serb-held Krajina enclave ended dreams of a "Greater Serbia" and a new willingness by the Clinton Administration to lead Nato into airstrikes on Serbs besieging Sarajevo put muscle behind Western diplomacy.

It was Mr Holbrooke's decision to stage the talks at the austere Dayton airbase, calculating that the Balkan leaders would not want to stay there longer than they had to.

Mr Holbrooke was born on April 24, 1941, and joined the foreign service in 1962. From 1985 until his 1993 appointment as America's Ambassador to Germany, he was the managing director of Lehman Brothers, a New York investment company. (Reuters)

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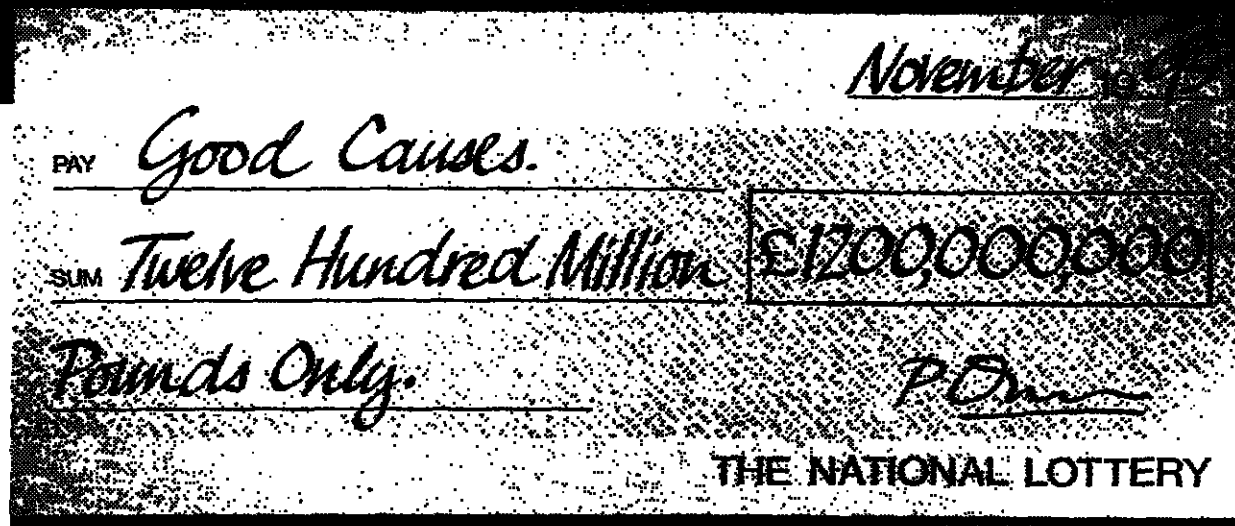
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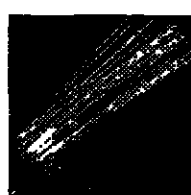
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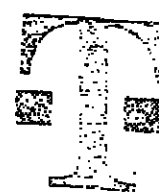
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Second show trial could mean death for China dissident

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA'S leading human rights activist, Wei Jingsheng, who has been missing since early last year, has been arrested on charges of trying to overthrow the Government, the New China News Agency reported last night.

Usually well-informed sources here said that perhaps the second show trial of his life could be held soon, possibly before the Chinese New Year, early in 1996.

Mr Wei, 44, a charismatic, articulate former electrician who in 1979 was jailed for calling, in effect, for the "fifth modernisation — democracy", could expect to face either a death sentence or another long prison term.

Diplomats noted last night that the terse announcement of the arrest came almost immediately after the end of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit in Osaka, Japan, which was attended by President Jiang Zemin, and at a time when China is making economic concessions in an effort to enter the World Trade Organisation (WTO). It will slash tariffs on imports by at least 30 per cent next year.

"Apec is over and China stands a good chance of getting into the WTO," said one diplomat. "China is riding high and that is probably why Wei is being charged now. There will be strong international condemnation, but the Chinese Government believes it can ride that out, given the support China enjoys as a

huge market." The arrest of Mr Wei, who was originally freed in September 1993, nine days before the International Olympic Committee was to decide on a venue for the 2000 games — they went to Sydney, not Peking — is regarded as the one figure capable of uniting opposition to the Communist state. Envoys also note that it comes at a time when the Chinese Government has virtually crushed all internal



Wei: accused of trying to topple Government

opposition to its one-party rule, after the unrest of the late 1980s and the uncertainty of the early 1990s.

Wang Dan, the most prominent student leader from the later pro-democracy protests of 1989, violently suppressed by the Chinese Army in Tiananmen Square in June 1989, has also been held virtually incommunicado since last May. Envoys say there is a

possibility that the 26-year-old former history student will also be formally charged and tried soon.

Mr Wei disappeared again into China's vast security apparatus on April 1, 1994, after meeting John Shattuck, the US Assistant Secretary of State for human rights. He told the American that Washington should take a firmer stand with Peking.

Xinhua, the official news agency, said Mr Wei was arrested after Peking police found that he had conducted activities in an attempt to overthrow the Government after his release on parole in 1993. He had served 14½ years of a 15-year jail term on charges of selling military secrets and counter-revolution or subversion.

At the time, he said he was unrepentant. "My political views have not changed," he said. "I have no regrets."

There is certainly no sacred cow of the Chinese Communist Party Mr Wei has not attacked. Mao Tse-tung, Deng Xiaoping, the system, Tibet, foreign affairs — he has transgressed over them all. For that, anyone would attract a long sentence or a bullet in the back of the neck. He will not be expelled from China. He is the single dissident whose power abroad would not fade. Foreigners expelled: China expelled 15,000 foreigners between 1990 and 1995 for breaking the country's laws, the China News Service announced. (Reuter)



SERGEI GRINKOV, the Olympic and world figure skating champion, pictured above with his wife, Yekaterina Gordeyeva, died of an apparent heart attack yesterday after lifting her during practice. Grinkov, 28,

Star dies in skating rehearsal

and his 24-year-old partner, who took pairs figure skating to new artistic and athletic heights in recent years with their powerful lifts and

stunning throws, had been preparing for a professional performance at Lake Placid, New York, on Saturday. The couple won the Olympic pairs gold medal in 1988 and 1994, four World Championships, two European titles and the USSR National Championships as amateurs. They had homes in the United States and in Russia. (Reuter)

Students march for more cash

Paris: Thousands of students, including 20,000 in Paris, marched through French cities yesterday to demand extra government funding for universities (Ben Madienne writes). More than 20 of the 90 universities are on strike. The marching students, teachers, school pupils and parents' unions were backing demands for F22 billion (£265 million) in additional funds and the creation of 6,000 teaching jobs.

Bomb injures 19

Delhi: At least 19 people were hurt, one seriously, by a bomb outside a restaurant in the Connaught Place shopping area here. Security had been reviewed in case Tamil Tigers targeted Delhi. (Reuter)

Priebke in Italy

Rome: Former SS Captain Erich Priebke, 83, has arrived in Italy after being extradited from Argentina to face charges connected with the massacre of 335 Italians during the Second World War.

Tapie ruling

Paris: Bernard Tapie, the bankrupt French soccer boss and politician, suffered a new blow when the National Assembly again lifted his immunity from prosecution. Tapie is a deputy and MEP. (Reuter)

British Emmys

New York: Channel 4's *The Politician's Wife* and *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush* have won Emmys, TV's answer to Oscars. BBC winners were *Anne Frank Remembered* and *Little Lord Fauntleroy*.

Botha snubbed

Johannesburg: President Mandela has rejected former President P.W. Botha's request to stop the prosecution of former apartheid-era security leaders, including General Magnus Malan.

Strikes out

Moscow: Workers in the Siberian city of Barnaul have been laid off for a fortnight with 5,000 boxes of matches instead of wages. The matches are worth about 500,000 roubles (£65) a head. (Reuter)

Defeated Walesa cries foul

By Roger Boyes

SUPPORTERS of the Polish leader, Lech Walesa, yesterday challenged the election success of his presidential rival, Aleksander Kwasniewski, claiming the former Communist's followers had stuffed ballot papers into the urns.

The challenge, submitted to the Supreme Court, plays on the memories of Poles who recall how Communists rigged "free" elections after the Second World War and as recently as the 1980s.

Only about 600,000 votes separated the candidates in the election, which ousted the former Solidarity hero. However, analysts said the appeal was unlikely to win an annulment. For one thing, some Walesa supporters were also caught attempting to cheat, albeit in a smaller way.

Ambitious Gingrich pays price of miscalculations

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

NEWT GINGRICH is in free fall a year after masterminding the Republicans' capture of Congress and being hailed as America's *de facto* President.

The House Speaker badly mishandled his party's budget showdown with the White House; his perceived "extremism" provided the perfect foil for President Clinton's political recovery, and he is expected to acknowledge the reality of his situation on Monday by formally ruling out a presidential bid.

Mr Gingrich's problems are partly political. He saw last November's vote as an overwhelming mandate for radical change, although the Republicans captured the House with just 52 per cent of a 39 per cent turnout. The more rigidly he

has adhered to the sweeping promises in his *Contract with America*, the more public support for the "Republican revolution" has dissipated.

The Speaker also inspires intense personal dislike and a hostile media fanned that antipathy; a recent *Vanity Fair* profile, for example, portrayed him as a megalomaniacal philanderer.

Last week's budget battle was a disaster for Mr Gingrich. First he miscalculated that he could force Mr Clinton to capitulate by shutting down the Government — he succeeded only in making the President look resolute. He then exposed himself to ridicule by admitting he had stepped up the confrontation because of perceived slights on board Air Force One.

Mr Gingrich remains confident voters will forgive and forget if he and his fellow revolutionaries do ultimately balance the budget and roll back "big government". In the meantime, polls show big majorities of Americans disapprove of his performance and distrust the Republican agenda. Mr Clinton's approval rating has reached 53 per cent, the highest since February 1994, and he has opened a 15-point lead over Senator Robert Dole, his probable Republican presidential opponent.

□ **Specter withdraws:** Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania is today expected to become the second Republican to drop out of the presidential race for lack of money. Pete Wilson, California's Governor, withdrew in September.

Peres boost for Syrian deal

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

IN conditions of draconian security never seen inside the Jewish state, Shimon Peres, the acting Prime Minister, last night presented his new coalition Cabinet to the ruling Labour Party in Tel Aviv. The 120-seat Knesset is set to approve it today.

Senior Israeli officials said that, although the new Gov-

ernment would have the same narrow majority as that led by the late Yitzhak Rabin, it was expected to enjoy greater leeway in pursuing the elusive peace treaty with Syria. Mr Peres, like Mr Rabin, would remain Defence Minister.

"I expect it to be less vulnerable to parliamentary ambush as a result of the recent tragic events," one official said. "Genuine peace with Syria before the next general

election due on October 29, 1996, is now more likely."

Attempts to restart the negotiations between Israel and Syria, the key to a comprehensive Middle East peace, will be on the agenda when Mr Peres travels to Washington next month for talks with President Clinton.

The sticking point remains the timing and extent of Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights.

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DILLONS THE BOOKSTORE

Nigella Lawson on the wisdom of that interview and Julia Llewellyn Smith on the woman who beguiled the nation

How did the princess of hearts win our minds as well?

A very brave man telephoned the *Call Nick Ross* programme on Radio 4 yesterday to say that Diana's insistence that she was a strong woman and was being persecuted on account of it showed, to his distress, that "feminist dogma had infiltrated the highest echelons of society", and a fine mess it was too.

The Princess of Wales recast as a feminist icon is an intriguing possibility. Certainly it would have seemed a ridiculous notion when she first came on to the public scene and confessed coyly to the cameras that "with Prince Charles by my side, I can't go far wrong". But does the fact that the Princess has shown resolutely that she is not prepared to stand by her man mean that she has earned the right or the slight (depending on your point of view) to be called a feminist?

Bearing in mind Rebecca West's wry comment that every time she said anything to distinguish herself from a door-mat she found she was called a feminist, perhaps we should conclude that times have not changed so very much.

The Princess admitted that as far as the Palace was concerned, the trouble was that "she won't go quietly". Evidently, the charms of docility and submissiveness have paled for the woman who once seemed, to feminist disdain, to embody those selfsame supposedly feminine virtues.

But what the Princess has done is more than ally herself to a political cause. In a loose sense, it may be that the way in which she chooses to frame herself, her behaviour — the strong woman who is suspected because of her very strength, the strong woman whom men fear and wish to punish — owes something to feminist debate, but what she says has resonances with all women, irrespective of their ideology.

It has struck me forcibly how differently men and women have reacted to the Princess of Wales's performance on Monday night's *Dianarama*. With a few exceptions, every man I know has just concluded that "she's bonkers". The judgment is not necessarily a harsh one, inasmuch as the belief that she is off her trolley doesn't seem in

all cases to preclude admiration, even infatuation. Women tend, whatever their ultimate view on the wisdom or otherwise of her decision to make the broadcast, to be sympathetic to her difficulties.

It's always dangerous to make a clear-cut case for these things but, on the whole, I think it is true to say, gauging the reactions of those around me and those I've heard contributing to the various shows, that men seem to feel there is something intrinsically manipulative about her crucifying candour, while women feel it is refreshing, and are impressed, even despite themselves, by it.



Speaking volumes: that look on *Panorama*

This need not surprise us very much. Most women know from rueful experience that men seem to feel that women's insistence, as they see it, to go on ever chewing the emotional cud is at best a pointless activity, at worst a guilt-inducing and aggressive one. In Deborah Tannen's perceptive analysis of sex differences in conversational styles, *You Just Don't Understand*, she pointed out how differently we use and react to language depending on whether we are men or women.

The Princess's apparent ease with discussing intimate details in public may surprise many people, but for men it can seem a symptom of instability in itself. This, the Princess showed herself to be well aware of herself. She knows the dangers, but wants to confront them. She obviously believes, with Nietzsche, that what doesn't kill her makes her stronger.

I say she knows the dangers, but I fear she only thinks she does. For however well rehearsed she was, however much she had thought of the questions, and what her answers would be to them all, the

one thing she can't control is how people react to them. Evidently she admires honesty, but the honest reaction of her friends, her children, her courtiers, her public may not please her.

Her faith in honesty, uninhibited candour as the Holy Grail, is itself fraught with difficulties. But a belief in honesty as the great, good, dazzling light must surely at times blind one, obscure one's judgment. Of the Prince of Wales's admission on television that he had committed adultery with Camilla Parker Bowles, she says she was devastated — on her and her children's behalf — but that, nevertheless, she "admired the honesty. It takes courage."

Thus, she no doubt feels it was equally admirable, equally courageous, to confess to her own adultery to those millions of viewers herself on Monday. Brave it may be, but sometimes discretion is surely the better part of valour. In this regard a child might well wish for more timorous parents. But the question of honesty is the hardest one. Her descriptions of her difficulties, her unhappiness, were moving. No woman who has ever suffered from post-natal depression could fail to feel anguished sympathy for her.

I can't imagine surviving such a hellish life: being abandoned, as a child, by one's mother; being married while not much more than a child and becoming a wife, the Princess of Wales and a mother within a year; being persecuted by photographers and copy-hungry hacks; feeling that one had to be ever the best but feeling always the worst. But she has survived. To borrow from the Eric Cantona advertisement for Nike: she's paid for her mistakes. Now it's someone else's turn.

But honesty is only half the picture. It is quite possible to be entirely honest, or to feel one is being entirely honest, but to be self-deluding at the same time. By which I mean that one's unconscious motivations must also be questioned. The part one has played in one's own life must also be investigated, and resolved. Now, I do not believe that the best place to do this is on television — far from it. But without an unparalyzing analysis of one's hidden motives, one's secret self, any display of seeming honesty, however sincerely expressed, must be wide of the mark and must — and this is more important — be ultimately unhelpful. I think real honesty would have precluded the possibility of even doing such an interview for if these matters had been resolved personally, surely they would not have needed to be thrashed out publicly?

I can imagine that the Princess might not have seen what she had to lose. She has



As the nation settled down for the show, the Princess was heading for dinner

no privacy at the moment. She is suffocated by endless speculation: why not clear the air by saying what she really felt, rather than having always to answer to other people's image of her foisted on her and on the public prints? But it is hard not to see the need to spew out the words as comparable to a bulimic's need to purge.

But if, about her own private life, one doubts the judiciousness of her venting her spleen, on her public role she was surely right to stake her claim, define her goal. Her detractors point out that she herself has no role; it is only as wife of the Prince of Wales that she earns her place on the public stage, and if she no longer fulfils that role, then to speak of any other is beside the point.

Constitutionally that may well be true, but the public do not agree.

There may well have been mass cringing at her stated desire to be "queen of people's hearts", but — and I am no royalist — the failure to see the enormously potent effect she has on people, and the affection they have for her, has done more damage to the old-style Royal Family than it has to her.

'Obsessed with looks and fitness'

The Kohl-rimmed eyes were full of pain, the outfit sober, the posture hunched and regretful. The Princess of Wales, who so often has been described as a cross between a supermodel and Mother Teresa, was in Saint mode on Monday's *Panorama*. Yet, as the interview was being screened, Britain's answer to Linda Evangelista was stepping out in a slinky designer gown at a charity gala in London.

"Diana had received very polished coaching in her speech and mannerisms, yet she deliberately chose to play down her appearance on *Panorama*," says Mary Spillane, of the image consultancy Colour Me Beautiful. "She was not made up for television, she chose to blow-dry her own hair so it fell in wedges on one side. She was dressed like a nun and looked beleaguered, tired."

Forget the question of whether the Princess was trying to manipulate our hearts, there is no question that over the years she has perfected the art of producing a prototype facade for whichever persona she has decided to inhabit. The chubby teenager who married a Prince has metamorphosed into a gaunt-faced victim with cheekbones you could grate Parmesan on, but with a muscular torso that would do credit to a member of *Gladiators*. "In recent years she has taken a definite step not to keep pace with fashion," says Spillane. "She has sat out various trends, her hairstyle, her hemlines have remained more or less the same. Even her use of eyeliner is very dated. She's making a definite statement: I'm a woman in my own right and I'm too serious for all this fashion and beauty stuff."

Even Monday night's outfit, a flowing black number by the designer Jacques Azagury, was a concession to sobriety, says Spillane. "It was rather subdued for her, considering what she's recently worn in the evening, quite dignified and with a full skirt."

The message was considerably more demure than that conveyed by the off-the-shoulder, black mini-dress, a Valentino creation, that she wore to a party at the Serpentine Gallery, the night her husband confessed to adultery on television. In her own interview, traces of the shy Di who wore see-through

skirts in the playground and who batted through photographers to her Mini Metro were still visible in the wide, staring eyes and the high flush at the mention of Mrs Parker Bowles. Yet the would-be Queen of Hearts is a far more assertive creature, according to a psychologist, Philippa Davis. "She makes very direct eye contact when listening and speaking which indicates frankness and power." The tilted head, once a symbol of coyness, now helps to make the Princess seem compassionate, says Davis. "It indicates that she is warm, sympathetic and a good listener."

Until Monday night, the Princess held the status of a silent movie star. Like a Barbie doll, no one seemed quite sure that she could talk, let alone string a sentence together. "I was astounded by how she was able to talk for an hour," says Spillane.

So can we believe the Princess's claims that she is "a product that sits on the shelf and sells well and people make a lot of money out of"? Does she really find discussions of her hair and clothes "dull"? "Of course not," says Spillane. "Her actions contradict her answers. She couldn't survive without public attention. She revels in flaunting new, rather daring outfits. On Monday she was visiting her health club as usual, wearing shorts on a freezing cold day and jiggling her keys. You don't do that if you don't want cameras flashing in your face."

Dr Max Richardson, a psychologist, says: "The problem is that the only area of her life in which the Princess is completely confident is her looks. Her husband was in love with a much older, less attractive woman and for years Diana's strength has come from the knowledge that she may be less intelligent or good company than Camilla Parker Bowles, but she is undeniably more beautiful."

The Princess's beauty bill comes to £3,000 a week and the only regular date in her diary is her daily visit to the Harbour Club. "It's very sad, because although she has conquered bulimia, she is obviously still obsessed with controlling her body," says Spillane. "She has made a fetish of maintaining her shape and being perfect."

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IT SAYS YOU'VE ARRIVED

Now give thanks for the monarchy

The scandal of public quarrels must stop, says John Grigg

The worldwide audience for the Princess of Wales's *Panorama* interview shows the strength of the British monarchy, not its weakness. People everywhere are fascinated by the institution, and they are fascinated by her primarily because she is part of it. But of course that is not the only reason. The monarchy may have made her a star, but without latent star quality she would have been unable to take advantage of the opportunity that her marriage gave her.

Like many stars, the Princess seems self-obsessed and prone to self-delusion. There were signs both of persecution mania and of megalomania in her replies to Martin Bashir's (not always sufficiently rigorous) questioning. But there was also abundant evidence of a talent for communication that royalty badly needs, and of a personal shrewdness, not to say cunning, that can be more valuable than any number of A levels.

Her public quarrel with the Prince of Wales, in which their private affairs have been paraded before the world — as she now admits — initiated by her through Andrew Morton's book *Diana: Her True Story*. The Prince then most unwisely responded by baring his soul to Jonathan Dimbleby, and she has returned to the charge in her interview. All this has been extremely damaging to the Prince, and may in the long run prove equally damaging to the Princess. But above all it must have been agonising for their two sons, for whom she professes such love and devotion.

No doubt she does love them, in her rather uncomfortably possessive way. Yet she could hardly have done more to hurt them. The Prince, too, must have been thinking more of himself than of them when he decided to go public about his marriage. Both parents in this case have behaved like spoilt children — which is bad luck on the actual children, especially when the effects are aggravated and vastly magnified by relentless media coverage.

The media, indeed, cannot escape blame. Treatment of the marriage and of its breakdown has been marked by considerable crassness and irresponsibility, culminating in the BBC's gratuitous encouragement of the Princess to give her interview, just when it seemed that a period of mutually agreed silence on personal issues might have begun. Of course, people in the public eye should exercise discretion and self-control, and are asking for trouble when they show neither, as both the Prince and the Princess have done. But responsible newspapers and broadcasting networks should also exercise some restraint, and the BBC in particular should do so in view of its unique status and reputation.

In this instance, the BBC has courted sensation at the expense of the public interest, and at the expense of two vulnerable schoolboys. John Birt has betrayed an important trust.

The monarchy itself is in no danger. It has survived far worse vicissitudes than this. Individuals come and go, but the institution remains one of the most precious we have — and it is one that we share with many others (a point too often overlooked in our increasingly parochial vision of the world).

Most nations are republics, and most are not democracies in any recognisable sense. Many are cruel tyrannies. Among the world's truly stable democracies, a large proportion, probably the majority, are constitutional monarchies, for which our own has been the outstanding model.

Nevertheless, there are always lessons to be learnt and improvements to be made. One lesson should be apparent to anyone who reflects on how the Prince of Wales's marriage came about. Lady Diana Spencer was thought to be a suitable bride because she had no sexual "past" and came from an aristocratic background. It was assumed that only such a person could be relied on to fulfil the role and conform to the rules. If the Prince were a less conventional character, he would have defied this assumption, so

sparing himself and others much distress. When the time comes, Prince William's choice of a wife should be governed by more sensible values.

Meanwhile, the Princess of Wales's faults should blind no one to her virtues. Star quality is not itself a virtue, but a gift from the gods which can be put to good use or abused. The Princess has done both with it, but on the credit side she has shown imaginative sympathy as well as an actress's ability to project it. If she were now to set aside vindictive feelings and give still wider scope to her positive impulses, she could become a permanent asset to the monarchy.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, another import from outside the Royal Family, has shown itself in a similar capacity to treat royal work as a thrilling and delightful opportunity. The Queen, without being a star, has the vital qualities of steadiness, decency and a sense of fitness. These are qualities the Princess needs to cultivate.

Ideally, a line would be drawn now and the Prince and Princess would miraculously come together again. But it was hard to see how this could happen even before Monday's interview, and now it looks impossible. The best we can hope for is that there will be no more public airing of their griefs and grievances, and that they will serve the monarchy in their different ways without trying to upstage one another.

If their separation leads to formal divorce, it should be on terms generous to the Princess. Whatever offence she has given should not weigh against a proper awareness of her position, or of the force for good or ill that she remains.



War of Clinton's Ego

The news of Bosnian peace should not blind us to the risk of war

Nobody wants to shoot a dove. The news from Dayton, Ohio, is that the two main players in the Bosnian drama, the Serbs and Croats, have had enough and have told the wretched Muslims as much. The American Government has done the same. We now hold our breath. But having seen more than thirty ceasefires and two signed agreements repudiated by parties to this civil war, the god of scepticism is entitled to a hearing. President Clinton in the Rose Garden yesterday talked as if nobody had ever tried a Bosnian peace deal before him. They have, and all have failed.

When I thought the talks were collapsing, I was going to throw my hat in the air and cheer. Sanity had prevailed. The West would not be going to war. British troops would not be sent to fight and die in the Balkans for no reason beyond improving the re-election chance of an American President. Warring parties had once again gone to a distant saloon to see if they could cheat money or weapons from a Great Power, and had failed. They would return to their messy conflict and sort it out as best they could. That was worth a cheer.

Peace in Bosnia would, on this basis, take the form of Presidents Tudjman of Croatia and Milosevic of Serbia cutting a deal at the expense of the Bosnian Muslims. They barter and bargain and enforce a deal on their proxies and their mercenaries in the battlefield. It would be their deal, their peace, their credit, and their responsibility to see it through.

Instead, the Americans have lifted that burden from their shoulders. At Dayton it appears that the two strong men did indeed cut a deal. They were ready to sign heads of agreement even if the Bosnian Muslim Government, clearly in the depths of gloom, did not sign. So the Muslims signed. Bosnia has been partitioned *de facto*, and the Muslim part is under a "federation" of which the Croatian leadership is plainly in control. The Muslims have been betrayed by their erstwhile American friends, who ended up siding with the Croats.

The one hope that the Muslim Government had when it came to Dayton was that somehow the Americans could be induced to rearm its ragged troops, re-equip and retrain them, and send American forces to protect them. That way it could still dream of another spring, another

offensive, another bid to recapture its territorial integrity. Having viciously blamed the United Nations for being unrealistic over the past four years, it could now blame Uncle Sam.

A wise American Government would have had no truck with that tactic. Having won the signatures of the principals, it would have sent them to Dayton to implement and police. Civil wars end not just when the parties are exhausted and a new territorial equilibrium has been established, but when that equilibrium can be enforced by internal discipline.

Instead, Mr Clinton heard the war drums, felt the draw of the polls and stepped smartly forward into the trap. Nato has no strategic interest in Bosnia. At the start of last year's ceasefire, the UN had an opportunity to escape from the mess. It funked it because Europe's politicians did not want to appear to retreat. Staying did not save the ceasefire. Thousands more died, including dozens of peacekeepers. The shaming of the UN was total. Now Nato is going down the same path. Last night Washington pundits said it would all be different. America was strong. Nato would have tough rules of engagement, massive firepower and air superiority. Besides, the object of the exercise was peace, to rebuild the country and to "create the preconditions for true democracy". We need not rehearse how often those lines have been heard this past quarter century, nor count the resulting body bags.

The one voice of sanity at present is coming from the American Congress. It knows what this deal is all about and wants no part in it. Mr Clinton's re-election plans are of no interest to the House Republicans. They watched Presidents Reagan and Bush bring home the corpses of American marines from Beirut and Mogadishu on just such missions as this.

For three years, the Washington

Administration lectured Europe that Bosnia was a European conflict, that there was no possibility that American troops would be involved. Since then the ratchet of intervention has clicked by the month. The veracity of the warring parties and their paravos has known no bounds. The Sarajevo Government broke one ceasefire after another in a bid to regain lost territory and goad the Americans into sending troops to its aid. The Americans at first refused, but assisted the Croats in coming to the Muslims' aid. The result, earlier this year, was a resurgence in the war, to which the

Serbs reacted with customary brutality at Srebrenica and Zepa.

The Americans defended their support for the Croat-Muslim alliance on the pretext that only a restoration of some sort of military balance behind a defensible ethnic frontier could produce a deal. This strategy might have carried weight had the Americans left things at that. The parties should then have been left to reach their own deal, under the aegis of the Serb and Croat leaders. Power in Bosnia was always going to be decided between Tudjman and Milosevic. The only question was whether they would be allowed the credit for peace, and thus have to take responsibility for policing it.

This did not suit America. The American negotiators wanted not just a deal but a deal in Dayton, Ohio, within photo-opportunity range of President Clinton. As a result, the leaders of this civil war have been again let off the hook by foreign intervention. Nato has undertaken to relieve them of the obligation of self-control. It will make them behave, which to each side means making the other side behave. The Bosnian Government can go home and talk of treachery, tipping the wink to its commanders to rearm and prepare for Nato's departure a year from now. The Serbs can do the same. I am sure General Mladic — the hero of the Bosnian

Serbs who have been barred by Mr Clinton from "political office" — will be happy to have a year's breathing space to regroup his forces. As for the Croats, they appear to be confronting Serbs backed by Russian peacekeepers in Eastern Slavonia. Heaven help the good people of that land.

What is outrageous is that a British Government feels it has no option but to go along with this business. I wonder if the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, would be so compliant if it were the United States of Europe that were summoning 10,000 of his troops to the colours. So far, British troops have been in the Balkans under the United Nations flag. John Major told Parliament that they have been there strictly to protect the delivery of humanitarian relief. This they have done efficiently. Under the Dayton settlement, British troops will be going into the field as part of the largest army Nato has ever put together. This will be under Nato command, which means that its fate will be at the mercy of American domestic politics. British troops are to become mercenaries in a War of Clinton's Ego. I would like to think that at least one Member of Parliament will have the guts shown by the American Congress in seeking to deny Mr Clinton money for this adventure. But I doubt it.

The best hope now is a thin one: that the warring parties will at least calm down for the 12 months of Nato intervention. They will let Nato's generals and politicians strut their hour upon this stage before folding their tents and heading for home and glory. The danger is that the Bosnians collectively will do nothing of the sort. The danger is that the warlords, bandits, kidnappers and mercenaries will not wait that long. They will seek to regain land and towns lost over the past summer's offensive and goad Nato into taking sides, as they goaded the UN forces.

No war in the Balkans has ever been tidy. Mr Clinton, in the quiet security of the White House, made it seem as if what happened yesterday in Dayton was a simple power projection, the imposing of order on a turbulent but contrite world. That is not how it is. Nato is going to war in an inappropriate theatre, with no clear military objective beyond holding two sides apart until it leaves again, as soon and as triumphantly as can be stage-managed. Why British troops should be party to this nonsense is a mystery.

Alan Coren



I have seen the future — and it will require a strong constitution

After the extraordinary shenanigans of Monday night, there is really only one matter to be addressed: what does the future now hold for the institution itself? It is as patently impossible for it to go on as if nothing had happened as it is for the rest of us to believe it can survive in its present form: for the floodgates have been opened, and the water is sluicing out of Pandora's box like nobody's business. That is because it is everybody's business: we are talking here of nothing less than the battle for the hearts and minds of the British people, since that is also the business of that institution which, from Monday on, can never again be quite the same. Generations of schoolchildren yet unborn, when asked what happened on November 20, 1995, will unanimously thrust their little hands into the air, crying: "Please sir, me sir, I know sir, that was the night that television changed forever!"

They will not be wrong. Now that we have all had a few sober hours to reflect upon it, does any of us honestly doubt that the true watershed represented by the *Panorama* scoop was the public dissection of one spouse by another? That was what put all those millions of bumps on seats, not to say the edge of them, that was what made the Princess's interview so exponentially different from her husband's glum fall-walk with a Dimbleby too respectful to invite him to slag off the missus, and that, above all, was what ensured that, for television, there can now be no turning back.

For how can the medium resist what is beyond question the most fascinating topic in the world, viz. other people's marriages, especially when the programmes can be made for nuppence a yard? All that is required is one camera, two bentwood chairs, a hack with a clipboard, and a venomous matrimonial casualty prepared to waive any fee in return for the wonderful opportunity to blow the public whistle on the source of all its woes.

You will say, hang on a minute, this one was a bit special, we are talking Top World Wife here, with all the constitutional trimmings, but I will smartly snap back to the effect that being a bit special was precisely what prevented Martin Bashir either from hurting in with the bouncer or slipping the goopily from the back of his hand, and thereby giving us an evening to remember even more than the one we do. Had he been interviewing, say, Mrs Janice Athorpe of 14 Pondicherry Villas, Woking, housewife and checkout supervisor, I have no doubt at all that he would have pressed keenly home the inquiry as to exactly what it was about her window-cleaner that made him so superior to her husband in all departments, nor any more doubt that she, in her turn, when urged to reveal why she felt her husband would be unfit to inherit the mantle of Rumbold's Southport Area Sales Manager when the deeply respected Mr Wainwright at last retired, would shrink from retorting, "Apart from having the kind of breath that strips paint and picking his ear with his Biro, the rotten little bastard cannot keep his hands off junior filing clerks, and has been fiddling the company's till-rolls since 1978."

Living stuff, eh, absolutely unmissable, particularly when the end credits promise not only that on the following evening the aggrieved husband will exercise his right to reply, but that on the night after that the window-cleaner will bring his Polaroid, to be followed by a *Newswatch* discussion between Jeremy Paxton and an expert panel of junior filing clerks. I have not, since you ask, come up with a title for the show — it's a pity *They Think It's All Over and Match of the Day* have both been appropriated — but I am sure that such fine-tuning will not be beyond the wit of the school-mongers currently charged with running our ether, or that, given the cheerily accelerating rate of marital chaos, they will ever run short of eager programme-fodder. I am happy to leave the nuts and bolts to them: my purpose today was really only to express, on all our behalfs, our gratitude to the Princess of Wales for her unerring knack of, once again, finding the nation's heart.

Unbuttoned

ACCORDING TO her supporters, the Princess of Wales pushed all the right buttons in her *Panorama* interview on Monday night. But she may have been even cannier than we thought: the brass buttons on the sombre navy blazer she was wearing as she tore into her husband bore the coat of arms of the Prince of Wales.

Royal watchers were out with their magnifying glasses yesterday, examining the buttons in detail from still photographs. They drew the conclusion that this was either an attempt to cock a snook at the Prince or an indication that she was determined to keep the trappings of her title.

A spokesman at Henry Poole in Savile Row, livery tailors to Her Majesty, suggested that she would have had the buttons especially sewn onto the wide-lapelled, long line double-breasted jacket. "It would have been a personal choice and quite consistent with her status. Presumably the buttons would be added to the jacket of her suits."

Mayer & Mortimer, the military outfitters, explained that all buttons with the coat of arms are made in Birmingham, and the

Royal Family is supplied directly by the manufacturer. "We don't sell them to members of the Royal Family," he says crisply, "just to those regiments which are entitled to wear them."

Hard stuff

A MAGNIFICENT wake took place on Monday after the funeral



"Well if the Beatles can get back after 25 years..."

of Sir Robert Stephens, the actor who enjoyed a tipple or two. Sir Robert's dazzling wife, Patricia Quinn, was joined at Golders Green crematorium by family and friends, who included Dave Allen and Kenneth Branagh. There was one unexpected guest: a tramp who shuffled up to the crematorium clutching a can of potent lager. "Robert's range of friends was so extensive that we weren't sure if he was supposed to be there," said a fellow mourner.

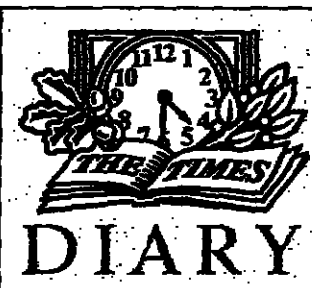
Mogul studies

KEN RUSSELL, the white-haired film director with a tomato for a face, has been accorded a special honour. Russell, 69, is to join the Southampton Institute next year as a visiting professor in film studies. Russell is a former Southampton resident and orders fishcakes in restaurants on the basis that it is a Sotonian gesture.

Students are looking forward to meeting his lively third wife, the actress Hattie Baynes, who participates in nude mystical dancing with her tubby hubby.

Stars meet

GOLDENEYE met golden throat yesterday over lunch. Just hours



before the premiere of the new James Bond film, its star, Pierce Brosnan, was spotted eating on his own at the Hyde Park Hotel's Restaurant on the Park. At a table on the opposite side of the room was a forlorn-looking Plácido Domingo, who had just finished his score for *Fedora*, which he sang last night at Covent Garden.

Their eyes caught across the room, they rushed into an embrace, pecked one another's cheeks, and settled down to a convivial lunch *a deux*. Afterwards, the hotel closed its bar to allow Plácido to practise for half an hour. Brosnan, meanwhile, was said to be mixing dry martinis.

Even though her newly-dyed red locks have been generally scorned, Paula Yates is the extraordinary choice to host the British Hair-dressing Awards later this month.

"Her only contribution to the industry is all the hair-dye she gets through," says a wispish crimpier. "In her case, every day seems to be a bad hair day. We would have preferred Bob Geldof. Even his hair is more attractive than hers."

Cold spell

FOR YOUNG lads in Edinburgh with ambitions of a career in public life, a stint as an ice-cream salesman is to be recommended. At a dinner for Sir Robin Renwick, our former Ambassador in Washington, the Queen's former press secretary Michael Shea recalled how Renwick cut his teeth in political circles.

"In his student days in Edinburgh in the early Sixties, he sold ice-cream at the Mound, virtually on Princes Street," said Shea. "The rival seller at the adjacent ice-cream stall was David Steel."

Fund time

NEIL KINNOCK had an unusual engagement last night. The EU Transport Commissioner was speaking to the British Conservative Association in Brussels. The Tories claimed a coup. "I'm delighted that Neil has come to this fundraising event,"



Yates: wrong choice

crowed Tom Spencer, MEP for Surrey and chairman of the Euro-Tories. "It is marvellous to see the former leader of the Labour Party agreeing to help the Conservatives to raise money."

A Kinnock aide denied any knowledge of the fundraising element. "They asked him if he would talk about transport policy. It is not party political."

P.H.S



THE ROYAL INDIVIDUALS

How the monarchy can move forward for us all

One era of our 20th-century monarchy is dying away: a new era is dimly visible. In between the two, like an echo from wars gone by, lie bitterness and uncertainty, perils but also hope.

The Princess of Wales's appearance on *Panorama* on Monday night will long be a landmark. Yesterday the Palace authorities moved quickly to limit the immediate impact. If they have a serious intent, as they say, to "see how we can help her define her future role" then that is all to the good. But the subsequent action must be both bold and serious. Only the Queen herself is likely to be able to make such actions happen.

The Princess's description of royal life was devastating of the Royal Family idea that has sustained the monarchy for 50 years. The image of a national family was already weakening before the BBC interview took place: but it is now all but gone. The Princess described how she aimed to join an ideal family and found only a real one: and the reality, as she found it, was cold and jealous, courtly, even on occasions cruel.

In this television performance the Princess was credible. Courtiers may continue to accuse her of paranoia. But nothing can alter the essential credibility of what she said. As opinion polls show, she was widely believed. She will continue to be believed.

It should be clear to everyone now that the Princess is not going to "go away", that she cannot be driven away, that the mother of the future King has an undeniable place in a modern monarchy and that she is determined to find and occupy that place. The Princess has a powerful sense of her private and public self, modern sensibilities manifestly comprehensible to modern Britons.

Once it might have been acceptable to treat the wife of the heir as the mother of a king and nothing more. Today the Palace powers must deal with what they have, not what they would like to have. More than at any time since Edward VIII's Abdication, this is a moment for cool, new thinking and open minds.

The irritant dust has not yet settled. Friends of the Prince will be tempted further to stress the Princess's manipulation of the media, her destructive taunts about her husband's fitness to rule and the hurt to which she almost certainly subjected her children. There is no lack of justification here. Her initial deception of Buckingham Palace might have been a tactical necessity;

it was devious nonetheless. However great the provocation, the estranged wife of the future monarch should not debate in public his fitness and preparedness to rule.

Meanwhile, friends of the Princess will praise her candour — about the affair with the disgraced James Hewitt, about her eating disorder and her share of the blame for the failure of her marriage. They will stress her sense of exclusion from a family which never understood and increasingly feared her.

But tired mantras — echoes of past pain and recrimination — will not be enough to resolve the difficulties now facing the monarch, her family and thus us all. Both sides should call a halt. What matters now is that the task of reconstruction begins — in earnest, in a positive spirit of magnanimity and, if possible, forgiveness.

Depressing as it may be to consider the future of the monarchy as a matter for negotiation, so it has become. The Princess set out a reasonably clear position in the interview. She will not solicit divorce but will "await her husband's decision of which way we are going to go". She does not expect to be Queen. But nor is she absolutely sure that the Prince will become King. She is clearly prepared, if necessary, to promote the interests of her eldest son as immediate successor to his grandmother.

The Prince and his advisers must consider their own position. They should stop fearing the Princess and start to see how she can best benefit Britain and its Crown. The Princess of Wales's vision of monarchy, though moving, is incomplete: care for the sick, acts of conscience and respect for the needy are only part of a royal duty. There is also the impressive range of responsibilities — cultural, charitable and patriotic — which Prince Charles performs daily with quiet resolve. A modern monarchy can accommodate both approaches — and must.

The Crown cannot afford to squander its resources. Its essence can no longer be the symbolic cohesion of the Royal Family; the institution must now depend upon the endeavours of individuals. As her trip to Argentina this week will surely confirm, the Princess is one such asset. She has commitment, charisma and, in her own words, a "possibly unique role" which she is determined to perform. It is in the interests of her family and her nation that she has a clear position from which to do so.

HOPE HOTEL

Bosnian peace, made against the odds, must be made to hold

Three weeks ago, when Warren Christopher opened the Bosnia talks in the deliberately bleak setting of the Hope conference centre at the Wright-Patterson base in Dayton, Ohio, he told the Presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia that they had a straight choice: to make peace, or suffer "violence, poverty and separation from Europe and the world". The entire thrust of American diplomacy, in the gruelling days and nights that followed, was that choice was precisely what the parties did not have. Washington would not take no for an answer.

Mr Christopher and Richard Holbrooke, America's dour chief negotiator, snatched yesterday's "comprehensive" peace agreement from the jaws of failure: the aircraft which would have carried the parties homeward in the event of breakdown had been readied for take-off. This was never going to be a deal based on mutual trust. But the tension and doubt that remained right up to the final minutes of arm-twisting underlines how central the continued, persistent involvement of America will be, if this agreement is not to unravel like past accords.

By promising to consult Congress before dispatching the bulk of America's contingents in the Nato peace implementation force, President Clinton may be gambling that the Republicans will not now want to incur blame for converting success back into failure. But his concession is risky: a prolonged wrangle would create precisely the delays that, even without an actual Republican veto on deployment, could be

fatal. It is not a good sign that Newt Gingrich is already indicating that he will first want to send a congressional "study team" to Bosnia. Nato is ready, but America, which will command the operation, is not.

The doubts do not end there. In principle, this agreement meets most of the criteria for a stable and lasting peace. Bosnia-Herzegovina is to be a single state within its present borders; Sarajevo is to be a unified city; there will be a central government with an elected joint presidency and bicameral parliament, a constitutional court and an independent human rights commission. Refugees are to be helped to go home, and war criminals will be ineligible for public office. In practice, this previously multi-ethnic country will be split in two. The fact that the toughest disputes at Ohio were over territory would seem to spell one word: partition. Significantly, it was the Bosnian Government, justly fearful of being squeezed between a greater Croatia and a greater Serbia, that held out after the others had agreed to sign.

If Nato merely patrols buffer zones, it will do no more than put this conflict on ice. Even then, the war-weariness of ordinary Bosnians, Serbs and Croats may bring about a slow thaw. So Mr Clinton hopes. But Bosnia will be stable only when the internal frontiers erected in Ohio cease to matter to Bosnians of all persuasions. However precariously founded this agreement may be it must, after such atrocious suffering, inspire hope. It cannot yet inspire confidence.

NO BLINKERS

Praise for the Cruel Sports man who changed his mind

Lobbyists, by definition, are zealots burning to convince others of their cause. Campaigns to ban the bomb, save a beauty spot, halt the transport of live animals or outlaw abortion are strident, uncompromising, single-issue campaigns that brook no backsliding. Indeed the very self-righteousness of such lobbyists is what gives them a peculiar force in a democracy. In an uncertain world, they know the answers. Their arrogance ignores the nuances of normal decision-making.

A lobbyist who loses conviction inflicts, therefore, a mortal blow not only to his cause but to the morale of fellow campaigners. They expect to change the minds and laws of their own views. The consternation at the League Against Cruel Sports over the standstill. The league has been in the forefront of the bitter fight to ban fox-hunting. But when Jim Barrington, the executive director, told *The Field* — the bible of the hunting, shooting and fishing fraternity — that he could see conditions under which the league would be less hostile to the hunting, accusations of treachery were the milder of the members' expletives.

One must admire Mr Barrington's honesty and applaud his courage. He has not abandoned all his former beliefs; but he has been persuaded, by the evidence of those close to the countryside and the arguments of his opponents, that the League's absolutist stance was wrong. Changing your mind is never easy, the more so when, in politics or public relations, your opinions are your livelihood. Paradoxically, a complete change of philosophy and outlook is commoner: the religious convert was a familiar figure a few generations ago, and his modern equivalent, the Trotskyist who swings to the far right, is no less unusual nowadays.

A change of heart on single-issue campaigns is rarer. The anti-abortion lobby won a notable victory in recruiting Norma McCorvey, the original Jane Roe in America's landmark ruling liberalising abortion. A veteran American campaigner for the tobacco industry has also switched sides after contracting throat cancer. Dr Spock now repents of his permissive parenting, the philosophy that raised generations. Too often campaigners keep on the blinkers for fear of losing their focus: so congratulations to one who took the blinkers off.

The Princess, the Palace and the future of monarchy

From Mr Peter Armitage

Sir, Nothing has been lost but an artificial mystique. We are increasingly gaining the knowledge that the Royal Family is no more (or less) moral, intellectual or beautiful than the rest of us.

It is time for us to cease to be subjects and grow into citizens, with all that implies.

Yours faithfully,
PETER ARMITAGE,
Coppice Close, The Street, Takeley,
Bishop's Cleeve, Hertfordshire,
November 21.

From Mr Christopher Shale

Sir, The Princess of Wales, in one hour, has advanced the ultimate interests of the monarchy to a far greater extent than the cabal of advisers which has served it so inadequately in recent years.

The British people's instinct is for monarchy. What has undermined our confidence is the sustained failure of the royal establishment to adapt to the age in which we live. Although "poorly advised" has become a euphemism for personal error, it should be applied liberally in this case. The Royal Family is poorly advised. Therein lies the root cause of the problem.

With the Princess of Wales as his mother — a position of power from which she can never be removed — Prince William has every chance of becoming an outstanding monarch for the 21st century. Every genuine monarchist should rejoice.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER SHALE,
The Garden Cottage, Cornbury Park,
Charlbury, Oxfordshire,
November 21.

From Mr Henry Blumenthal

Sir, Having elaborately described the value of monarchy as a political and constitutional umpire, Peter Riddell ("Her Majesty's controversy", November 20) concludes that the marital controversy between the Prince and Princess of Wales constitutes "a strong case for ending the monarch's role as political umpire and delegating these powers to commissioners".

I do not see any logical connection; and frankly I wish that journalists would stop pretending there is one.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
HENRY VON BLUMENTHAL,
The Monarchist League,
BM "Monarchist",
London, WC1N 3XX,
November 20.

From Professor Stephen Haseler

Sir, The latest episode in the continuing public squabble between the

Prince and Princess of Wales only confirms what many of us have been arguing for some time — that the State and the monarchy need to be separated.

Such a separation would serve a double purpose. It would allow the Windsors to live their lives outside the glare of publicity. And, more importantly, it would rescue Britain's constitution — already degenerating into a soap opera — from becoming an international laughing-stock.

The high-profile dispute between future King and Queen, which I believe is only just beginning, will serve to alienate from monarchy its one remaining constituency among the older generation. Thus, serious, sensible constitutional reform — which separates the monarchy from the State upon the death or abdication of the Queen — will no longer seem unpatriotic. Rather, it would appear as an act of constitutional prudence.

Sincerely yours,
STEPHEN HASELER
(Chairman, Republic),
PO Box 2608, London W14 9ZT,
November 21.

From Mr Charles Samek

Sir, Tim Gardam of the BBC, in his article today, states that "it would have been quite wrong" for the BBC or any other journalist to do the interview and then disregard the Princess's wish that the Palace should only be told of the interview by her after it had taken place. This statement is disingenuous in the extreme.

Why could the Princess not have been told by the programme-makers that, in the light of the longstanding informal agreement that the Queen is told of any royal filming in advance (report, also today), the BBC was bound, at least morally, to do so in this case? That the wishes of the Princess (who could, of course, have told the Palace whenever she chose) should rank above a long-standing arrangement with the Palace is to be regretted.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES SAMEK,
Littleton Chambers,
3 King's Bench Walk North,
Temple, EC4,
November 20.

From Mr Anthony Burbidge

Sir, One might feel inclined to view more openly the rest of her interview had not the Princess of Wales conveyed the impression that she was the first and only member of the Royal Family to show love and sympathy in a practical way for those facing death from dread diseases or in equally tragic situations. This was to deny the years of unpublicised love and care given by the Duchess of Kent to those

in a hospice where she has worked — not just visited — and the very clear example of the Princess Royal, who is no slouch when it comes to the sharp end of the work of the Save the Children Fund.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY BURBIDGE,
Amberley, Hayes Lane,
Slinfold, Horsham, West Sussex,
November 20.

From Mr Peter Hildebrand

Sir, Should your former Editor, Lord Rees-Mogg, really wish to understand Princess Diana's behaviour and interpret her aims, he should begin by reading Elizabeth Zazel's account of "the so-called good hysteria" (*International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 1961) which clearly sets out the enormous narcissism and destructiveness of this type of character.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HILDEBRAND,
2 Meard Street, Soho, W1,
November 21.

From Mr Daniel P. Hearsom

Sir, For many years, the Queen and the Queen Mother have maintained impeccable standards of dignity.

If the Prince and Princess of Wales cannot perpetuate these standards then they should relinquish their positions and the considerable privileges attached thereto.

Yours faithfully,
DANIEL P. HEARSOM,
30 Queensmere Road, SW19,
November 21.

From the Reverend Paul Jenkins

Sir, Given the apparent civil war between the Prince and Princess of Wales, we should follow an historic precedent, namely, find a Lord Protector, exile the entire House of Windsor to The Netherlands, wait for a decade and then invite them back.

A time for repentance, reflection and recommitment is now needed by all.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL JENKINS,
The Rectory,
Singleton, West Sussex,
November 20.

From Professor H. C. Higgins

Sir, Tom Lehrer once remarked "If two people find it difficult to communicate with each other the least they can do is to shut up".

Yours sincerely,
HAL HIGGINS,
Court Cottage,
The Green, Hampton Court, Surrey,
November 21.

Prejudice against women lawyers

From the Chairwoman of the Association of Women Barristers

Sir, As a contributor to the Bar's Equality Code, who stands accused by President of the Law Society, Martin Mears, of "corrupted and debased" ideas ("Spare us from the statistics of zeal", *Law*, November 14), I should like an opportunity to respond.

Firstly, there is a considerable body of information, developed in part through industrial tribunal case-law, about procedures to be adopted by those wishing to avoid discrimination. Discrimination is a complex area and effective compliance requires rather more than pious expressions of intent. It is only proper that the Bar Council should offer its members detailed guidance.

Secondly, there is considerable research showing the extent of discrimination against women barristers. *Without Prejudice?*, a study of sex equality in the Bar and judiciary, commissioned by the Bar and the Lord Chancellor's Department and published in 1992 — reported that women found it significantly more difficult to obtain pupils and tenancies than men.

As for the Sheffield study to which Mr Mears refers (the 1994 Shapland report), any lawyer familiar with this area of the law can tell you that 27 cases of harassment, if pursued, would leave any employer with a sizeable bill. The Shapland report was also supported by a 1994 internal Bar Council study which identified a number of incidents of "disgraceful" misconduct by pupil-masters.

Any responsible profession would take steps to alleviate the problems that undoubtedly exist, and the Bar has been commendably swift in its response.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA HEWSON,
Chairwoman,
The Association of Women Barristers,
12 Gray's Inn Square, WCL,
November 14.

From Mr Michael S. Howells

Sir, It is easy enough to pour scorn on the fatuities of the anti-discrimination industry, and Martin Mears does so effectively. He forgets, however, that discrimination and sexual harassment are wrong. They are just as wrong whether 4 per cent, 14 per cent or 40 per cent of those questioned complain. After all, he would scarcely argue that it was pointless banning murder because so few victims complained.

I voted in favour of the Law Society's anti-discrimination rule. I am proud to have done so and, given the opportunity, I would do so again.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL S. HOWELLS
(Council member, The Law Society),
25 Hamilton Terrace,
Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire,
November 14.

From Mrs Lynn Cunningham

Sir, Mr Mears, being male, is unlikely to have suffered the kind of harassment that can mar a solicitor's working life. Those women subject to this treatment either put up with it, or try to laugh it off, as they know that their accusations would go only to dent their own reputations rather than those of the perpetrators.

Narrow-minded and unenlightened views, such as those expressed by Mr Mears, are what have made the Law Society what it is today.

Yours faithfully,
LYNN CUNNINGHAM
(Council member,
Lincolnshire Law Society Committee),
4 Church Street,
Long Bennington,
Newark, Nottinghamshire,
November 15.

Highland clearance

From Mr Duncan Bryson

Sir, The wild Highlands of Rob Roy have survived because of the system of foreign landlords who call into question "Foreigners buy half of Scotland in Highland clearance sale", report, November 13.

We tinker with that system at our peril if we wish the Highlands to remain the way they are.

Baillie Nicol Jarvie, guide and mentor to Francis Osbaldestone in Walter Scott's novel, would have drained Loch Lomond "giving to plough and the harrow many hundred, ay, many a thousand acres, from which no man could get earthly good or even, unless it were a good [pike] or a dish of perch now and then".

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN BRYSON,
109 Martin Avenue,
Irvine, Ayrshire,
November 16.

All in the family

From Mr Ken Lidstone

Sir, Last week's paint-throwing incident outside the House of Commons, involving the child of parents running a dry-cleaning company (reports, November 16 and 17), appears to be a nice marriage of left-wing ideals and capitalist aspirations.

Yours sincerely,
KEN LIDSTONE,
24 Hollins Spring Avenue,
Dronfield, Sheffield, Yorkshire,
November 20.

Greenwich buildings

From the Director of the National Maritime Museum

Sir, Mr Giles Worsley, Editor of *Perspectives on Architecture*, suggests that the National Maritime Museum has "backed away" from taking over the whole complex of the Royal Naval College buildings at Greenwich, due to insufficient standing or resources ("Deadline day at Greenwich", *Homes*, November 15). His allegation is unfounded, as is the statement that the museum's reputation for "running its own buildings" is "doubtful".

Mr Worsley seems to have confused the management of the buildings with their refurbishment. I know of no concern expressed on the former score by any individual or group. As to refurbishment, I suggest that his views on the interior decoration of the Queen's House may have blinded Mr Worsley to what has been achieved in substance since 1989.

The buildings in the care of the National Maritime Museum are amongst the best-preserved in London. Against swingeing cuts to our government grant, we have striven to complete a programme of refurbishment and consolidation precisely because we understand and appreciate the value of the treasures which we hold.

The structures of our buildings are all sound, the roofs do not leak and the fabrics are maintained in prime condition. The recent refurbishment of the Old Royal Observatory (another part of the museum complex) has received numerous international awards for design and preservation.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ORMOND, Director,
National Maritime Museum,
Greenwich, SE10 9NF.

Sale of masterpiece

From Mrs Rosemary Eban

Sir, It seems likely that the Fra Bartolommeo painting of the Holy Family will find its home in the Getty Museum in California (report, November 13) among the other masterpieces to be seen there by those who are able to visit.

Before it leaves these shores, could we not persuade the powers that be to ensure that it is exhibited in public at the National Gallery in London, for instance, or the National Galleries of Scotland, for some short period of time while its fate is being determined. This would at least afford those of us who cherish such things a last opportunity to see it.

Yours etc,
ROSEMARY EBAN,
15 Hampstead Hill Gardens, NW3,
November 18.

Caucasian repression

From Mr Mark Almond and others

Sir, Western concern about the priority of oil profits over human rights should not be confined to the savage repression by Nigeria (Jews, November 16, 20) of critics of Shell. We have just returned from observing the elections in Georgia and Azerbaijan, on November 5 and 12 respectively.

Azerbaijan is a potential major oil producer and Georgia is to provide pipeline access to Western consumers. Commercial self-interest has obscured the extremely grave human rights situation in both countries.

The Caspian Sea is expected to produce oil on a scale comparable to Shell's Nigerian interests. This bonanza looks set to scupper democracy's chances in the region. Under the guise of maintaining stability, corrupt and brutal regimes have been accepted despite the clear evidence that their undemocratic ways are one of the root causes of the region's instability.

Class sizes

From Mr R. N. Burton

Sir, Apropos your leader, "Teach the many" (November 13 letters, November 20), I taught a class of 48 in an East London primary school in the late 1940s. Never again (I finished last term after some years' supply teaching) did I have a comparable experience, not only in numbers but in the intensity of the desire to learn and with it the virtuous circle of good attendance and punctuality and, for the teacher, almost effortless control.

It seems to me that none of the recent pronouncements gets to the heart

Assisted places

From Mr George Walden, MP for Buckingham (Conservative)

Sir, How typical of our national myopia that debate about the assisted places scheme (report, November 13; letters, November 16, 18) should concentrate on its (undoubted) abuse, rather than its wrong-headed philosophy. It puffs up the Conservative conscience till we feel quite the little Disraelis, handing down scholarships to the needy with a benign smile.

For we are building bridges between the Two Nations, are we not? The fact that the APS perpetuates the

Both Georgia and Azerbaijan have hundreds of political prisoners and torture and death in custody are commonplace. For instance, the anti-Shevardenadze activist, Nugzar Abramishvili, died last month in the Tbilisi Isolator prison.

In Azerbaijan, Nusrat Budarov, a supporter of the ousted premier, Surat Huseinov, died in custody last summer as did Popular Front activist Shahmerdan Jafarov.

In both countries, in addition to human rights abuses, we witnessed serious irregularities — ranging from ballot-stuffing to count-rigging — which call into question any acceptance of these elections as representing the will of the people.

Yours faithfully,
MARK ALMOND,
CHRISTINE STONE,
JOHNATHAN SUNLEY,
The British Helsinki Human Rights Group,
22 St Margaret's Road, Oxford,
November 19.

of the causes of reduced classroom productivity since the war, perhaps because these are too political.

A teacher's job can be more burdensome and less fulfilling today with a class of 25 than it was with up to perhaps twice that number half a century ago. Efficiency of the individual teacher can make a significant difference, of course, but I suggest that this is marginal compared with the impact of the many external changes that have occurred over the years.

Yours truly,
R. N. BURTON,
56 Marine Parade,
Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

gulf by subsidising private schools goes unremarked. And if the gulf were not there, how would we relieve our brimming consciences? To whom to condescend?

Putting Labour on the defensive is a bonus: stand by for some good old British class games at the election. While we deepen our gulfs and try to make bridges and chant our outdated slogans, the world moves on.

Independent schools, as Confucius might have observed, should be financed independently. The APS money should be reserved for private schools who open their doors to all by selective examination. I suspect both Mr Blair and Mr Major would be ready to do this, but their parties would never let them. Genuinely One Nation educational policies would ruin the game.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WALDEN,
House of Commons.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

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OBITUARIES

Captain Aston Piper, DSO, DSC and two Bars, died on November 8 aged 82. He was born on April 19, 1913.

The first Royal Naval Reserve officer to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in the Second World War, Captain Aston Piper served in submarines almost continuously from 1939 to 1945, inflicting much damage on Axis shipping, often in circumstances of extreme hazard. He had been a fine navigator and first lieutenant, but after he got his first command, the submarine *Unsparring*, he really came into his own with some bold forays into the dangerous waters of the Aegean where his tally of sinkings was unique among RNR commanders.

Piper combined complete unflappability with great tactical acumen. The submarine service always reckoned itself fortunate to have ex-Merchant Navy officers like him in its ranks, since their experience of seamanship and navigation was invaluable. His men, too, were grateful since he many times extricated *Unsparring* from what seemed the jaws of certain destruction by enemy depth charges.

On a more light-hearted note, Piper may claim some credit for the evolution of the "Ursula" submarine suit invented by Captain George Phillips (Obituary, October 31), as it was his one-piece motorcycling outfit that gave Phillips the idea for a waterproof suit for submariners, in the first place.

Aston Dabell ("Peter") as he was known in the Navy) Piper was born at Dovercourt, near Harwich, and educated at Dovercourt High School and Ardingly College. In 1929 he went to sea with the Merchant Navy and in 1932 joined the RNR as a midshipman. Ironically, it was while taking part in anti-submarine exercises at Portland in 1937 that he decided to make his career in submarines.

In the meantime his Merchant Navy career was spent mainly with the United Baltic Steamship Line, giving him experience of the North German littoral that was to stand him in good stead when war came. He was serving as first officer of *SS Balfric* in the navy last days of August 1939 when the Admiralty ordered the ship not to return to England by way of the Kiel Canal, the normal route. Instead, she sailed round the northern tip of Jutland via the Kattegat and Skagerrak, arriving back in Hull just before war broke out.

Piper immediately joined the submarine *Ursula* as navigator to George Phillips and was involved in some of the earliest offensive actions by British submarines. On December 14, 1939,



Unsparring in port, Piper fourth from left. On her Jolly Roger the bars indicate ships sunk, the half bars, ships attacked, the stars round the crossed cannon, targets destroyed by gunfire

Ursula stole into the Heligoland Bight and attacked the German cruiser *Nürnberg*. She in fact missed it (though the loss of a German cruiser was triumphantly reported in the British press on December 30, 1939) but did sink two escorts. For this attack Piper was awarded the first of his three DSCs (and Phillips won the DSO).

On *Ursula's* next patrol, early in 1940, she intercepted an iron ore carrier in the Skagerrak and ordered it to halt. The vessel's master signalled back that his ship was Estonian, but this did not fool Piper who knew full well from his Baltic experience that the Estonian merchant fleet had no ships of that size. The crew was ordered to take to the boats and *Ursula* then torpedoed the freighter.

After a period patrolling in the Channel in the aftermath of Dunkirk, *Ursula* was dispatched to the Mediterranean to join the famous "Fighting Tenth" submarine flotilla based on Malta. In the following year

Piper became first lieutenant of *Unbeaten*, commanded by Teddy Woodward. It was a harmonious partnership, and *Unbeaten* caused havoc among transports supplying the Axis forces in North Africa. Piper won his second DSC for his role in sinking three Italian supply ships and his third for his part in the sinking of a U-boat in the Strait of Messina.

He was now ripe for command himself and in the autumn of 1942 took charge of *Unsparring* which was being built on the Tyne. Once commissioned, she did an initial patrol off the Norwegian coast before going to the Mediterranean. One of Piper's earliest successes was an attack on a cargo ship off Brindisi, which he sent to the bottom with two torpedoes. Diving after making his attack, he was vigorously counter-attacked by Italian torpedo boats but made — as it seemed at the time — a highly skilful withdrawal to the north. Only after the war did he realise that he had taken *Unsparring*

right through a minefield as she evaded the enemy's depth-charges.

But some of Piper's most hectic actions were in the Aegean, where he was sent after the capitulation of Italy in mid-1943. Although the Italian fleet had by then surrendered, the Germans remained strong and the Aegean was a far more hazardous assignment than the easier pickings of the Western Mediterranean where the Allies had the upper hand.

In October 1943 Piper audaciously attacked four vessels head-on, sinking three of them with only four torpedoes. Even this astonishing success was not enough for him, and he closed in on the survivor and sank it, after blowing off its propellers and stern.

By this time the Germans were much to Churchill's annoyance, in the press of taking Leros (where they were to capture an entire British brigade) and had made the waters around the Dodecanese islands their stamping ground. Piper was ordered to cause as much disruption to their

movement of supplies as he could and, in a series of daring attacks, took the fight to the heart of German operations.

In a night attack he felt sure he had disposed of one enemy transport, and returning to the scene next day saw three Dornier flying boats picking up survivors. It was tempting to attack the aircraft but he decided instead on one of two large vessels which were packed with rescued troops. Realising this was no time for compassion since these soldiers would be used again against the British, he launched a torpedo attack which blew up the rescue boat. It was subsequently established that his victim the previous night had been the German troopship *Inge Bork* carrying 375 soldiers and war materials to Kos and Leros.

On a subsequent occasion, early in 1944, after sinking a German tanker he was so heavily depth-charged that he was forced to dive *Unsparring* to way below her maximum permitted depth of 300 feet. At 400 feet all her lights went out, her rivets were popping and the gyro compass failed completely. But, using a hand-held army compass read by torchlight, Piper managed to set a course for safety.

Later in 1944 Piper was awarded the DSO for these feats and, after sailing *Unsparring* back to Britain, was sent on the liner *Ile de France* to America. There he lectured on submarine operations to audiences in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas City and Barberton, Ohio. He quite enjoyed this but was not sorry to be back in charge of a submarine, taking command of *Tribune* in December 1944.

His final submarine command was of *Sirdar* after which he left the Navy in 1947. The following year he obtained his master's certificate, but soon afterwards joined the Iraq Petroleum Company, first as mooring master in Qatar and subsequently as superintendent of Iraq's vital oil terminal at Al Faw. He stayed there until 1958 when the *Kassem coup d'état* and the murder of King Faisal prompted a move to Syria and then back to Qatar.

He remained there until his retirement in 1965 when he returned with his family to Britain, living in retirement first near Henley-on-Thames and finally at Budleigh Salterton, Devon. In 1966 he had been placed on the retired list of the RNR, having been awarded the Reserve Decoration and two clasps, in recognition of his 35 years' service. He is survived by his wife Kathleen and by two daughters and a son.

BRUCE TRENT

Bruce Trent, singer, died on November 19 aged 83. He was born on August 21, 1912.



BRUCE TRENT appeared in a string of musical comedies during the late 1940s and 1950s. Blessed with wholesome, boyish good looks, he was at one time talked of as the British answer to Howard Keel. But he was not just a handsome face. He also had a powerful tenor voice, and he paved the way for other musical actors such as John Henson and Harry Secombe in West End and touring musicals.

Bruce Trent was born William Butters in St Helier, Jersey, the youngest of a family of 12 children. After leaving school, he trained as an architectural draughtsman. But his real enthusiasm was for singing, and he got his first engagements performing with local hotel bands. His first stage appearance was in a musical show in the Springfield Theatre, St Helier, in 1934, *No, No, Nannette*. He then came to the attention of the band leader Jack Hylton and from 1938 he spent two years touring Britain with Hylton's band.

Trent decided to visit his family in Jersey before being called up during the war but, while he was there, German troops invaded the Channel Islands. He escaped by begging a lift back to England from the captain of a boat loaded with potatoes. Back in London, he did not receive his call-up papers immediately, so he continued in showbusiness, singing with Jack Payne and his new BBC band. He was given the title role in Cole Porter's musical *Dubarry* was a *Lady at His Majesty's Theatre* in 1942. And, two years later, he played Prince Karl Franz in *The Student Prince* for Bernard Delfont in which he also toured. Eventually he received his call-up papers, and was seconded into the central pool of service performers. "Stars in Battledress".

He left the Army in 1946 and three years later he played Baron von Schober in *Lilac Time* at His Majesty's and in

1950 took over the leading role of Tommy Albright in *Brigadoon* at the same theatre. A string of West End shows followed.

In 1958 he scored a success as the dashing Prince in *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* at the Coliseum, a spectacular show, starring alongside Tommy Steele, Jimmy Edwards and Ted Durrant. On one occasion Oscar Hammerstein Jr was sitting in the stalls during rehearsal. He was so impressed by Trent that he promptly wrote another number for the show especially for him, entitled *No Other Love*. The song became not only the hit of the show, but Trent's signature tune for many years.

Trent appeared in two Royal Variety Performances, 1950 and 1954, and in later years was much in demand for touring shows and summer seasons. He scored a particular success in 1966 in a long tour of *Camelot*, playing Arthur.

He retired from the stage in the 1970s, well aware that his style of singing was no longer fashionable with younger audiences. But he was still proud of having taken part in the great days of the lavish musical, and he recorded many cover versions of Broadway shows which earned him a considerable income up until the time of his death.

He married his wife Mary in August 1940 in Dublin, with the comedian Ted Ray as his best man. She survives him, together with three sons and a daughter.

ARISTON CHAMBATI

Ariston Chambati, Zimbabwean politician, diplomat and businessman, died of meningitis in Harare on October 7 aged 59. He was born in Sinoia, Southern Rhodesia, on November 15, 1935.

ARISTON CHAMBATI cut a rare figure in his country. He combined the political authority of a veteran nationalist respected by the Mugabe Gov-

ernment with a financial acumen which won him the confidence of Zimbabwe's predominantly white business community. A model for the new post-independence breed of black businessmen, he was at the summit of his powers during his 15 years as chief executive of TA Holdings, the largest Zimbabwean-owned industrial conglomerate. During this time he also worked assiduously behind the scenes, helping to bring about the

political unity of his country. Just six months before his death, Chambati was appointed to the key position in Zimbabwe's Cabinet as Minister of Finance. He brought his extensive business experience to bear on the task of imposing financial disciplines on an often reckless Government and made brave attempts to curb the soaring financial deficit of a nation caught in a deepening debt trap. Western donors, though they may have

hoped for even more stringent controls, were nonetheless impressed by his July budget. Ariston Maguranyanga Chambati was born the son of a shopkeeper in the African township of Sinoia in North Mashonaland. His father was a man who prided himself on an independence of spirit. His mother was an Anglican and a strict disciplinarian, who instilled in her son the values of honesty and integrity. Chambati's political inter-

ests were first aroused while he was a pupil at Tegwini Secondary School, where teachers encouraged liberal debate. He took his O levels there, before leaving at the age of 17 to teach Shona, his native language, to trainees at the American Baptist Mission, near Salisbury. At the same time he studied successfully for his A levels by correspondence.

In 1961 Chambati joined the United States consulate where he became a programme officer in the political section. The job fostered an ambition to go to America and in 1963 he won a Parvill fellowship, (established by John F. Kennedy to promote international understanding), to study political science at Princeton. Having completed his first degree he went on to do an MA at New York University where he wrote a thesis on Tanzania's transition from colonial rule to independent status.

In 1968 Chambati was awarded a Commonwealth scholarship to study international relations at Lincoln College, Oxford. He was awarded a DPhil in 1971 and found work immediately in the Commonwealth Secretariat as a research officer in the international affairs division. In 1960 Chambati had become a founder member of the short-lived National Democratic Party (NDP), fighting for African supremacy in Zimbabwe. But when the NDP was banned a year later he joined Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu). However, working at the American consulate, he had not been able to partici-



ate actively in the politics of his country.

It was only while working in the Commonwealth Secretariat that he was put back in direct touch with his nation's political life. He became closely involved in the secretariat's recommendations on the composition of the Pearce Commission of 1971. Not long afterwards, Bishop Muzorewa — later to share power with Ian Smith — persuaded him to return to his country.

In 1972 he took up a post as a research fellow at the University of Rhodesia. The 1970s were a tough time. As Smith refused to grant democratic rights, the principal nationalist organisations, Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu) and Nkomo's Zapu, operating from bases in Mozambique and Zambia respectively, carried out increasingly aggressive guerrilla warfare campaigns.

Chambati watched with growing dismay this disunity in nationalist ranks. Personal-

ly he supported Zapu, believing Nkomo to be the leader of the more effectively organised party.

Two attempts were made on Chambati's life. After the first, probably carried out by Zanu members, he fled to England to live in Oxford, though he maintained close contacts with his country and especially with Zapu, still exiled in Zambia. It was as the secretary-general of the Zapu delegation that Chambati took part in a series of meetings which ultimately led to the 1979 Lancaster House conference in London when an agreement was reached to provide for a legally independent Zimbabwe, a new constitution and a ceasefire. The Rhodesia of UDI temporarily reverted to direct colonial rule, under the interim governorship of Christopher Soames, while it prepared for elections.

In April 1980 Zanu, to the surprise of most British officials, won by a decisive margin and Robert Mugabe became Prime Minister. Chambati fought for and won a seat in Parliament for his homeland of Mashonaland. He was the only Zapu member to win a seat in this area and, indeed, one of only 20 Zapu MPs. Many expected him to be chosen for a Cabinet position, but although Mugabe had agreed to allow Nkomo to nominate five ministers, Chambati turned out not to be one of them.

A second attempt was made on Chambati's life when a grenade was lobbed through the window of his home. Fearing for his life, Chambati

gave up his parliamentary seat and again went abroad, this time for three years during which he served as the Zimbabwean Ambassador to Germany, in Bonn.

Nonetheless, Chambati remained deeply committed to the struggles of his nation. In 1982 he resigned his ambassadorial post and returned to join TA Holdings as the undersecretary to the chief executive. A year later he became chief executive and subsequently chairman. In 1985, although Zanu further increased its majority over Zapu in Parliament, bitterness between the two parties had, if anything, grown. Chambati, trusted by both sides, was called in as a negotiator to help to bring about the 1987 Peace Accord in which the rival factions merged. Zimbabwe became a one-party state with Mugabe as its unchallenged leader.

Chambati continued to play a valuable role in the private sector. Beside his position at TA Holdings, he also served as an adviser to the World Bank, the IMF and the African Development Bank. However, now well into his fifties, he longed to return to the political fray. He had striven to become financially self-reliant, and therefore perhaps morally unimpeachable, before returning to a Cabinet post. In April 1995, to his great delight, he was appointed Minister of Finance, only to discover within a month or two how seriously ill he was.

He leaves a wife Dinah Gunzwa, whom he married in 1957, two sons and three daughters.

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After nine years at the helm, Marmaduke Hussey is stepping down as chairman of the BBC. So what sort of new head do we need?

The first requirement for a new chairman for the BBC is that his wife not be lady-in-waiting to the Queen. Perhaps he might even be a she. After being held by 17 men in a row, going back to 1922, the BBC's top job might perhaps now be entrusted to a female.

Another essential for a new chairman, who must be appointed within a year from this month, is to be seen to be non-partisan. The impression, fairly or not, left by Marmaduke Hussey's nine-year reign is that he has done what he was put in to do — to convince right-wing Tories that the BBC is no longer run by pinko lefties. That being done, at least in part, he was able, as a less trusted figure might not have been, to win for the BBC a new charter and a renewed licence fee.

As a change of government could well follow the next appointment, it is important that the new chairman must not look like a

Wanted: applicants for £79,900 part-time job

Tory legacy. Indeed, the unprecedented second five-year term granted Mr Hussey in 1991 was widely interpreted as a sign that the Tories expected to lose the imminent general election and wanted the BBC in safe hands.

The chairman's hardest task is to be non-interventionist but, at the same time, to be a powerful voice. The role is particularly vague. But the ambiguity has its compensations: the part-time post for £79,900 with its full-time driver and tickets to everything must be the most desirable part-time job in Britain.

In the current Diana controversy, Mr Hussey has been impeccable. He was right not to view Monday's *Panorama* in advance, right not to sound off publicly about any private thoughts he may have had about not informing the

Palace in advance. The BBC is no more obliged to confide its plans to the Queen than it has to say "our troops" instead of "British troops" during a war.

After the programming, however, it is well within Mr Hussey's remit to fire off a letter asking hard questions about the way the interviewing was done. Why did Martin Bashir fatter when the Princess threw him the ball and asked why she should divorce? He should have countered, asking what, if unwilling to remarry, she intends to do for a love life in the future? He should have asked where she picked up all that psychobabble. How did she find her therapists? Did the Palace vet them?

No future chairman could better Mr Hussey on courage or good manners. He has, however, been

far too eager to seize the wheel and to ignore his fellow governors. Two good books last year on the British BBC both blamed Mr Hussey for inflicting unnecessary trauma on a creative organisation. Each cited in particular the brutal manner of the firing of Alasdair Milne as Director-General in 1987.



BRENDA MADDOX

Even now, Mr Hussey publicly takes credit for management decisions such as the launching of Radio 5 Live, pronouncing it a "stunning success" — even though it gets only 1 per cent larger audience share than the old Radio 5 it replaced. He allows himself to meander self-indulgently about his own interests at press conferences. But his Director-General, John Birt, cannot complain. Mr Birt owes his appointment to the chairman's steamrollering.

I disagree, however, with Lord Rees-Mogg who asserted this week in *The Times* that the BBC's constitution only works when there is total rapport between chairman and the Director-General. Theirs is inevitably a fluctuating relationship in which the power slides from one to the other.

Lord Briggs, the eminent historian and interpreter of the institutional BBC, compares the chairman's duty to the monarch's to advise, encourage and to warn. The BBC's Director-General, according to Lord Briggs, should not be considered a kind of permanent under-secretary, but the one who makes things work, maintaining professional standards with due respect for the governors' advice. As such, the DG can operate with an inimical chairman, as shown during the Lord Hill-Sir Hugh Carleton Greene era in 1967-69.

Unfortunately, the new broadcasting legislation waiting in the wings does nothing to clarify the murky role of the BBC's governors. What it does do is to introduce a new and paralysing demand for measurements to be

taken every year of the way the BBC has kept its promises. This structure will lead to more window-dressing "accountability" exercises like the recent taste-n-decency seminar at which the BBC allowed itself to be more self-pitying than Diana.

What the BBC really needs is a way to respond to the distress of its loyal audience upset by loss of old programmes and well-spoken English. (Letters in response to my complaint about changes to Radio 3 continue to pour in.)

Oh, I forgot. The prime requirement of the new chairman is youth. Back in 1962 the Pilkington committee warned against "the temptation" to appoint as BBC chairman "people near retirement" age. What the job needs, said Pilkington, is vision and imagination.

Words like that are what makes the BBC, like the monarchy, such a lovable institution, a reminder that history repeats itself.



During the Prince and Princess of Wales's disastrous tour of South Korea, the world finally saw that their marriage was nothing but a sham

The enemy within

Richard Stott on why the Princess of Wales was right about the Palace's whispering campaign against her

The Prince of Wales would never stoop to criticise his wife. Just give them a little space and the marriage will mend. Yes, a second honeymoon was on the cards.

Thus the official briefing from Buckingham Palace in the early autumn of 1992. But by then the Prince's friends were already a long way down the track in the whispering campaign against Diana.

In July 1992, shortly after the publication of Andrew Morton's book, *Penny Junior* — a well-known supporter of the Prince — had written a series in *Today* which was billed as Charles's side of the story. It was no idle boast. The series had been shown to Charles's office. The message came back: publish.

Junior painted a dark portrait of Diana as secretive,

neurotic and obsessed with his, wholly innocent, relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles. "He will not denounce Diana, he knows that she is unwell," read the headline. Charles, you see, was unable to save Diana from herself.

But worse was to come. James Whitaker, royal correspondent of the *Daily Mirror*, which I was then editing, spoke to Commander Richard Aylard about the Junior piece without knowing she had submitted it to the Palace and pointed out that this was exactly what the Prince had claimed he didn't want his friends to do. The answer was a classic kick from what the Princess identified in

her broadcast as "the enemy". "No, the Prince didn't want to do anything. He is worried about her volatile and emotional state and therefore thinks it totally unfair to attack her," was the reply. It was clear, said Whitaker, that Aylard intended the briefing to be used. As indeed it was.

But Aylard did not realise we had other reasons for getting the Palace's official spin-doctor line. Locked up in the *Mirror's* safe was a tape that was eventually going to blow the lid off the marriage — and prove that Diana had been right about her husband's infidelity.

The late-night conversation, to become known as the

Camillagate tape, remained in the safe for three months — largely because we wanted to see if the Palace briefing about the marriage on the mend was right. We certainly didn't want to destroy the relationship.

As the world was to find out during the couple's disastrous tour of South Korea, the marriage was a sham. Publication of Camillagate did the rest.

Yes, there was a concerted and outrageous whispering campaign against her. It stretched beyond the Prince's office into all areas of the Establishment. The truth is the Palace mandarins and their supporters were trying to

such a mental state that she could easily be dismissed: in her own words, to turn her into a "basket-case" to save the reputation of the Prince.

It is a direct result of the machinations and duplicity of those people who conspired against her that Diana appeared on *Panorama*. If there were excesses in the programme, or if she saw phantoms persecutions, it is a direct result of real excesses and real persecutions.

"Toe-curlingly dreadful" was how Nicholas Soames described Diana's performance before he went on to brand her as paranoid. But it is he and Charles's courtiers who have brought all this about. And it is they who should be damned for it.

At *The Sun*, Stuart Higgins, the Editor, was able to display his front page on BBC's *Newsnight* within half an hour of the end of the interview.

Ten years ago, when *Today* was being launched and Rupert Murdoch was preparing the removal of his four national papers to Wapping, yesterday's achievement would have been so much more difficult.

The words would have been typed twice — first by journalists on typewriters and then by printers — made up in hot metal instead of on an electronic screen and the papers distributed by rail instead of by road. It wouldn't have been possible to take pictures from the television screen — and even if it had, they would have been black and white. The story of the sensational interview would have got into far fewer newspapers and with no pictures at all.

As its founding Editor, I mourn the death of *Today* (which missed the story by three days) — still more the disastrous launch from which it never recovered — but rest content that most of Eddy Shah's original aims were

Tomorrow's papers owe a debt to Today

Founding Editor Brian MacArthur explains how *Today* helped to change the face of Fleet Street

Britain's journalists offered a powerful demonstration yesterday of why their newspapers remain the most professional in the world.

When the BBC has a scoop it usually spoon-feeds journalists by inviting them to see the film in advance so that their story gets into first editions. That's good for the BBC and makes work easier for journalists and editors.

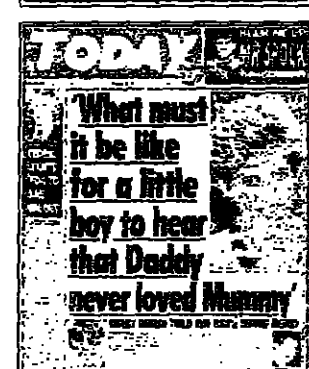
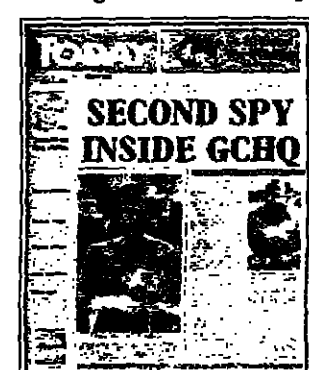
The *Panorama* scoop was different and was protected to the last. There were no previews and *Panorama* started after first editions were already on the presses. Old-fashioned, instant reporting was required and old-fashioned reporting triumphed at this newspaper and its rivals.

The interview with the Princess of Wales ended at 10.40pm. If they were to get their copy into the next edition, columnists such as William Rees-Mogg and Lynne Truss and royal correspondent Alan Hamilton had to write up to 750 words within 30 minutes. Their words were then edited, three pages designed with stories and pictures "grabbed" electronically from television, and the paper was being printed in London and at satellite printing centres by midnight.

At *The Sun*, Stuart Higgins, the Editor, was able to display his front page on BBC's *Newsnight* within half an hour of the end of the interview.



Newspapers had instant coverage of the Diana story



Today led the revolution (top) but had to close

achieved over the following decade, even if the main credit belongs to the proprietors he tried to beat. Yesterday's papers were the proof.

What was not achieved was Shah's ambition for an independently-owned newspaper.

with the staff as shareholders, that could prosper with a small circulation of about 300,000.

Until a few years ago, as it steadily closed in on *The Guardian* and *The Times*, it looked as if the *Independent* would succeed triumphantly where Shah failed, but its founders shot themselves in the foot when they started a Sunday paper and diverted their attention from the daily.

The turmoil and disarray in Fleet Street today, unprecedented in the past 50 years, strongly suggests that only newspapers published by the big battalions will be able to survive into the millennium.

That is shown by the fate of *Today*. Tens of millions of pounds were invested in the paper over the past ten years but its sales resolutely failed to lift off.

As Richard Stott, its last Editor, said in its final edition, the paper was put to death by the "granite face" of the balance sheet, made worse by the 50 per cent increase in the cost of newsprint this year.

That granite face would have killed *Today* earlier had it not been part of a big corporation — and the *Independent*, *Daily Star* and *Observer* are still being published only because they are subsidised by big media groups.

Just ten years on from the new dawn of 1986, Fleet Street is now about the survival of the fittest, with the weakest heading for the wall unless they can find new niche markets or suddenly inject the missing flair that will set their sales rising.

Yet even as Fleet Street endures the latest round of editors on the swings and roundabouts, the sad death of *Today*, which removes one of the few champions of new Labour, is a reminder of the transformation of the newspaper industry in the past decade.

Against the still-growing threat from 24-hour television news bulletins, reports may be shorter and pictures smaller, lines larger than ten years ago, but the British press of the 1990s, in the most competitive newspaper market in the world, produces ten national daily papers that are bigger and brighter, with many more sections (particularly on Saturdays and Sundays). They stand comparison with any in the world.

On the gender agenda

WHAT HAVE Robbie Coltrane, Jack Duckworth and Nick Berry got in common? Not only brooding good looks but also, apparently, an ability to exert their peculiar charm on both sexes. Duckworth's *Coronation Street*, Coltrane's *Cracker* and Berry's *Heartbeat* all appear both in the top five programmes chosen by women and the top five chosen by men. But men prefer video nasties (*Police Camera Action*) to soaps (*EastEnders*) and women, understandably, prefer fuelies (*Soldier, Soldier*) to firemen (*London's Burning*).

TOP FIVE PROGRAMMES: WOMEN v MEN

Programme	Date	Time	Chan	Producer	Genre	Audience (millions)	All 4+	Men	Women
1. <i>Coronation Street</i>	Mon 22	19.31	ITV	Granada Television	Soap	18.2	6.1	9.8	8.4
2. <i>Heartbeat</i>	Sun 20	19.30	ITV	Yorkshire Television	Drama Series	16.0	6.5	9.1	6.9
3. <i>EastEnders</i>	Tue 24	19.30	BBC1	BBC	Soap	16.7	5.4	9.0	8.8
4. <i>Cracker</i>	Mon 22	21.00	ITV	Granada Television	Drama Series	15.7	5.8	8.6	8.6
5. <i>Soldier, Soldier</i>	Tue 24	21.00	ITV	Central Television	Drama Series	15.2	5.3	8.6	8.6
Men									
1. <i>Police Camera Action</i>	Wed 25	20.01	ITV	Dorset Television	Documentary	16.4	7.1	7.6	7.6
2. <i>Heartbeat</i>	Sun 20	19.30	ITV	Yorkshire Television	Drama Series	16.0	6.5	9.1	6.9
3. <i>Cracker</i>	Mon 22	21.00	ITV	Granada Television	Drama Series	15.7	5.8	8.6	8.6
4. <i>Coronation Street</i>	Mon 22	19.31	ITV	Granada Television	Soap	17.7	6.1	9.0	8.8
5. <i>London's Burning</i>	Sun 20	21.00	ITV	ITV	Drama Series	15.2	5.8	8.6	8.6

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The downside of loyalty schemes is the 'sacking' of customers who fail to generate profits. Alan Mitchell reports

Welcome to the latest idea in marketing. Just as employers sack staff who don't pass muster in their jobs, so marketers are sacking customers who don't generate high enough profits.

Schemes such as Tesco's Clubcard are doing a wonderful job teaching consumers the rewards of loyalty. But there is a downside — already a big thing in America — if you're disloyal you may be "fired".

Some US banks have written to unprofitable customers telling them their account is being closed. Department stores such as Nordstrom and service companies such as Southwest Airlines have also adopted a policy of "firing" customers they cannot serve profitably. Their policy is the way of the future, the marketing guru Brian Wolf told a Royal Mail/Group X seminar last week.

The new ruthlessness is the flipside of marketing's current craze for "relationship" marketing. "It is as much about who you don't want to have a relationship with as who you do," said Professor Adrian Payne, a relationship marketing expert at Cranfield School of Management. Using customer databases or loyalty

Won't buy? You're fired

schemes, marketers can put names and addresses to formerly anonymous mass markets, track individual transactions, and work out how profitable it is to serve them.

The results can be astonishing. For example, some US grocers have discovered that their best 20 per cent of customers spend 50 times more with them than their worst 20 per cent. Mr Woolf said. The money spent attracting that worst 20 per cent would be far better employed buttering up the highly profitable best 20 per cent, he said.

Just as no employer would offer all employees the same salary and benefits package, so "Why should consumers be treated equally? If customers don't perform well, you'd be better off losing them."

In the UK, these ideas are fast gaining ground. "It's often better to devote your limited resources to serving a limited number of customers incredibly well," Professor Payne said. "One engineering company I

We've thrown in the garden shears,



garden shears, please

know is in the process of firing a quarter of its customers."

Next in line will be financial services, predicted Professor Paul Forster of the Lifetime Business Group. "High service demand, low-value customers can create extraordinary losses for you. If you can't

change the way you manage that relationship, what's the point of carrying on?"

Most UK marketers, however, plan to be far more subtle than the Americans. Overly sacking customers would be a PR disaster, said First Direct commercial director Peter Simpson. "Here, we pride ourselves on our service ethic. It wouldn't last very long if we did that."

Instead, marketers will adopt the next best thing of targeting favoured groups and discriminating against others. As companies begin to realise how profitability differs for each individual, "there will be different levels of reward for different customers," Mr Simpson said.

For example, insurance companies increasingly quote punitive charges to what they regard as high-risk customers. Building societies have started penalising small depositors with extra charges or loss of interest. Soon that philosophy could apply to day-to-day shopping. In the US,

instead of offering a straight 1 per cent off to all card-holders, as Tesco does, some grocers offer their most favoured customers 20 per cent off, the next best 10 per cent, the next best 5 per cent, while the rest have to pay full price. These supermarkets are using the money made by "dismarketing" their worst customers to reward their most loyal.

The dark side of this is that poorer, single-person households, and other less prosperous groups which fail to offer regular, high-profit business could end up being penalised.

Some, such as Julian Berry, a former TSB marketing director and now head of Berry Consulting, fear that legislation will be needed to force banks and building societies to offer basic services at basic prices to all, just as, at the moment, post, water and electricity services have to be offered to those living in the remotest parts of the country at the same price as central London.

Will the new marketing punish the poor? "It's a fair point," Mr Woolf said. "But if you want to be a public charity and have special rewards for old ladies, that's fine. You should just know what you're doing."

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THE TIMES BOOK TOKEN 4

Time bar on rent guarantee claim

Romain and Another v Seba TV Ltd and Others
Before Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Waite and Sir John May (Judgment November 10)

A claim against the guarantor of a tenant's obligation to pay rent was "brought" ... to recover arrears of rent, or damages in respect of arrears of rent, within section 19 of the Limitation Act 1980 and was therefore subject to a limitation period of six years, notwithstanding that the lease and guarantee were under seal.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the third defendant guarantor, Mr Steven Graham Brown, from the dismissal by Mr Simon Goldblatt, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division on December 2, 1994, of the guarantor's appeal from the order of Master Eyre made on October 19, 1994 whereby he dismissed the claim against the guarantor by the plaintiff landlords, Mr Philip Romain and Ms Elizabeth Wolfson, should not be struck out for want of prosecution.

Mr Guy Fetherstonhaugh for the guarantor; Mr Leslie Michaelson for the landlords.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said that the main issue in the appeal was whether the limitation period in a claim against the guarantor of a tenant's obligation to pay rent was 12 or six years, when both the guarantee and the lease were under seal.

The question arose because the plaintiff landlords were liable to have a large part of their claim dismissed for want of prosecution; in other words, they or their representatives had been guilty of inordinate and inexcusable delay in the prosecution of the action.

But if the limitation period was

12 years they could bring fresh proceedings, if the instant ones were dismissed, and it would be wrong to make the order in such circumstances: *Birkett v James* [1978] AC 297.

On the other hand, if the limitation period was six years most but not all of the claims were statute-barred when the application to dismiss the action for want of prosecution had been made by the third defendant and those claims, the defendant submitted, should be dismissed accordingly.

Section 8 of the 1980 Act provided that "actions on a specialty" should not be brought after the expiration of 12 years from the date on which the cause of action accrued (subsection (1)) unless a shorter period was prescribed by any other provision of the Act (subsection (2)).

The defendant said that section 19 applied to a claim against the guarantor of a tenant's obligation to pay rent.

That section provided: "Time limit for actions to recover rent. No action shall be brought, or distress made, to recover arrears of rent, or damages in respect of arrears of rent, after the expiration of six years from the date on which the arrears became due."

The lease and the guarantee were parties to the lease, which was made under seal, as joint guarantors of the first defendant lease.

Their undertaking was contained in clause 5: "The guarantors ... hereby jointly and severally covenant with the landlords that the lessee will at all time during the continuance of this demise pay the rents hereby reserved and will also observe and perform the covenants on the part of the lessee ... and that they will pay and

make good to the landlords on demand all losses damages costs and expenses thereby arising or sustained or incurred by the landlords."

Did section 19 apply? So the question was whether the claim against the guarantors under that clause following the lessee's failure to pay instalments of rent when they fell due was "brought" ... to recover arrears of rent, or damages in respect of arrears of rent, within section 19.

If it was, then the relevant period was six years. If it was not, then because the action was brought "on a specialty" section 8 applied and the period was 12 years.

The judge had held that the claim was made under what might be called the second part of the undertaking by the guarantors: not for breach of their covenant that the lessee would pay the rents reserved under the lease, but under the words which followed: "and that they will pay on demand all losses (and thereby arising) [from default by the lessee]."

He had held, although not without hesitation, that the claim for those losses fell outside the section.

After reviewing a number of authorities in which the precise nature of the obligations of a guarantor, or guarantor, had been considered, his Lordship said that Mr Michaelson submitted that it was wrong to go so far as to describe the obligations of guarantor and tenant as a "single act".

As Lord Justice Hoffmann had done in *Milberton Group Ltd v Warner World Ltd* [1995] 32 EG 70, 72, except possibly when the guarantor expressly undertook the same obligations as the tenant.

That was because their obligations were separate and distinct. The lessee undertook to pay the

rent, a liquidated sum, while the guarantor undertook that the lessee would perform that obligation, that being a separate covenant which was broken if the lessee defaulted and which rendered the guarantor liable in damages for the amount of the rent, but not for the rent itself.

That was the classic definition of the liability of a guarantor, as stated by Lord Diplock in *Lep Air Services Ltd v Rollowin Investments Ltd* [1973] AC 351, nor was it disputed by Mr Fetherstonhaugh.

So the submission supported the landlords' contention that their claim against the guarantors was not "for arrears of rent", and therefore not within the first of the two categories described in section 19. But it led them into difficult terrain when the second category was considered.

Their claim admittedly was for damages: was it for "damages in respect of arrears of rent" in which case section 19 applied? The question seemed to compel an affirmative answer unless, as Mr Michaelson submitted, the section was not concerned with claims against guarantors or other third parties, but only with claims against lessees.

That was the central issue raised by the appeal. Apart from the literal meaning of the words, there were two formidable obstacles in the way of the landlords' contention.

First, section 19 did not say that its operation was limited to leases and others in like estate; it could easily have done so.

Second, if its scope was so limited, it was near-impossible to give any realistic meaning to the phrase "damages in respect of arrears of rent".

His Lordship had come to the clear conclusion that section 19 applied to the six-year time limit not only to actions against the lessee but also to actions against the guarantor of his undertaking to pay the rent reserved by the lease.

In both cases the action was brought to recover arrears of rent, or damages in respect of arrears of rent, and the absence of any express reference to the surety was not significant.

The legal nature of the cause of action against the surety was entirely apt to explain the reference to an action for damages, which otherwise would have no clear meaning at all.

Equally, it was unnecessary in his Lordship's judgment to consider further whether it was appropriate to describe the obligations of the lessee and his surety as the same or forming "a single act".

LORD JUSTICE WAITE and Sir John May agreed.

Solicitors: Penningtons, Baskett, Brown & Emery, Watford.

Sex bias liability after transfer

DJM International Ltd v Nicholas

Before Mr Justice Mummery, Mr A. C. Blyth and Mr K. M. Young (Judgment November 7)

Liability in respect of an alleged act of sex discrimination by an employer transferred to the transferee of the employer's undertaking, under regulation 5 of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (SI 1981 No 1794), notwithstanding that the act complained of related not to the contract under which the employee was employed at the date of transfer but to an earlier contract of employment.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held in dismissing an appeal by the transferee, DJM International Ltd, from the decision of a Reading Industrial Tribunal, on a preliminary issue, that any liability in respect of an act of sex discrimination alleged to have been committed against the employee, Mrs Margaret Jean Nicholas, on July 10, 1992, transferred to the transferee in September 1992 by reason of the 1981 Regulations.

Regulation 5 of the 1981 Regulations provides: "(1) ... a relevant transfer shall not operate so as to terminate the contract of employment of any person employed by the transferee in the undertaking ... transferred but any such contract which would otherwise have been terminated by the transfer shall have effect after the transfer as if originally made

between the person so employed and the transferee.

"(2) ... on the completion of a relevant transfer - (a) all the transferor's rights, powers, duties and liabilities under or in connection with any such contract shall be transferred by virtue of this regulation to the transferee; and (b) anything done before the transfer is completed by or in relation to the transferor in respect of that contract or a person employed in that undertaking ... shall be deemed to have been done by or in relation to the transferee."

Article 3(1) of Council Directive (77/187/EEC), the acquired rights directive (OJ 1977 L61/26) provides: "The transferor's rights and obligations arising from a contract of employment or from an employment relationship existing on the date of a transfer ... shall, by reason of such transfer, be transferred to the transferee."

Mr Anthony Sandall for DJM; Ms Kate Bevan, representative, for Mrs Nicholas.

MR JUSTICE MUMMERY said that in 1967 the employee began to work for the transferor. On July 10, 1992, she attained the age of 60 and claimed that she was forced to retire. On July 20 she was re-employed on a part-time basis.

On September 27, 1992, the transferee purchased certain assets from the transferor. According to the tribunal decision it was accepted that there was a relevant transfer for the purpose of the 1981 Regulations.

The employee continued to work

for the transferee until she was dismissed for redundancy in February 1993. In April 1993 the employee brought a complaint of, inter alia, sex discrimination against the transferee which related to the termination of her employment at the age of 60 on July 10, 1992. The Industrial Tribunal found, on a preliminary point, that the claim had not been presented within the three-month time limit but exercised its discretion to extend time.

On a further preliminary point, the tribunal held that any liability in respect of an act of sex discrimination committed on July 10, 1992, transferred to the transferee in September 1992 by reason of the 1981 Regulations, notwithstanding that it did not arise out of the contract of employment existing at the time of transfer.

The transferee's argument was that the contract of employment and the employment relationship created by it which gave rise to the claim of sex discrimination had terminated on July 10, 1992, and that was not a contract "which would otherwise have been terminated by the transfer" in September 1992.

The emphasis in the argument was on the references in regulation 5(2)(a) and (b) to "any such contract" and to "that contract", conditioned by the overall reference in regulation 5(1) to "any such contract which would otherwise have been terminated by the transfer".

The weakness in that argument was that it ignored the width of the

wording in regulation 5(2)(b) which applied not only to things done before the transfer "in respect of that contract" but also to anything done before the transfer in respect of "a person employed in that undertaking". Anything done in respect of such a person was deemed to have been done by the transferee.

The crucial question was not, therefore, whether what was done was in respect of a particular contract, but whether it was in respect of a particular person employed in the undertaking transferred.

Those words of extension requested the reference in article 3 of the acquired rights directive to "an employment relationship existing on the date of a transfer" which had a more extended meaning than obligations arising "from a contract of employment".

At the date of the transfer there was an employment relationship between the employee and the transferee. The broad aim of the regulations and the directive was to ensure, as far as possible, that that relationship continued unchanged.

The wide words of regulation 5(2)(b) made it clear that a liability must be incurred by an employer and that a subsequent change in the contractual relationship between the employer and the employee did not prevent that liability from transferring to the transferee of the undertaking.

Solicitors: Halliwell Landa, Manchester.

Right to exchange gaming machine prizes

Regina v Burt and Adams

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Wright and Judge Wickham (Judgment November 9)

For the purposes of section 34(3) of the Gaming Act 1968, a person who won an item from a gaming machine received one and only one benefit or advantage, namely a non-monetary prize as defined in section 34(6), and permitted by section 34(3), so that any right to exchange the prize was incidental and therefore not prohibited by the Act.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated in a reserved judgment following the appeal by Burt and Adams Ltd against conviction at Mold Crown Court (Judge R. Evans, QC) on December 1, 1994 when the company pleaded guilty to three counts of unlawful gaming contrary to section 38(b) of the 1968 Act and was discharged absolutely. The appeal was allowed on counts 2 and 3. The company owned an amuse-

ment arcade with crane and grab machines on which a person could win a soft toy (the subject of count 2) and pusher machines where a winner could dislodge a prize item with a coin (the subject of count 3). Each soft toy or prize item had a value of less than £6. The arcade had signs stating that prizes had a points value and points could be combined to redeem larger prizes.

Mr Nicholas Strauss, QC and Miss Susanna Fitzgerald for the company; Mr Peter Hughes, QC and Mr Steven Everett for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY, giving the judgment of the court, said that the crown court had adopted the prosecution submission that the right to exchange, because it was a bonus which was a benefit not expressly permitted by section 34(3), gave rise to an offence under the Act.

Mr Strauss had reminded the court that as it was dealing with a criminal offence, the observations of Lord Evershed in *Rosenbaum v Burgoyne* [1964] AC 430, 442 applied: "The terms of a statute

imposing penalties must be construed strictly and if the meaning of the words used is doubtful should be resolved in favour of the subject."

He submitted that although the overall purpose of Part III of the Act was clear, it was not possible to discover any detailed plan which could assist in the interpretation of the various paragraphs of section 34(3).

There was, for instance, no prohibition on playing a game more than once, so a successful player might get more than one prize. Small money prizes were permitted, and money by its nature could be accumulated, so there would seem to be no discernible policy against accumulation.

If the prizes happened to be in the form of relatively low-value soft toys, so that a young player might end up with three such toys, each worth about £6, there would seem to be no obvious reason why he should not exchange one of them for a similar toy of a different colour, or all three of them for a toy worth £18.

In either case it would be a simple exchange with no increase in the value of the winnings and such exchanges had been commonplace in amusement arcades for many years.

If it were thought desirable to prevent such exchanges they could easily be prevented by express statutory words prohibiting exchanges, or limiting the right to accumulate, as section 34(8)(a) did in relation to section 34(6)(a).

The situation in the present case was not the same as that considered by the House of Lords in *Crown v Grierison* [1968] AC 895, where the benefit, the right to play a game at favourable odds, was distinct from and not an integral part of the main prize, the tokens.

That conclusion made it unnecessary to dwell on Mr Hughes' submission that a soft toy should be regarded, for the purposes of section 34, as a token, which their Lordships found difficult to accept.

Solicitors: Mincoff Science & Gold, Newcastle upon Tyne; Crown Prosecution Service, Colwyn Bay.

Unreasonable behaviour for binding over

Nicol and Another v DPP

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Scott Baker (Judgment November 10)

Before a person's conduct could be supposed to have been capable of provoking violence so as to be a breach of the peace it must have been unreasonable.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing the appeal of Laura Nicol and Diane Selvanigam against their commitment to a young offenders institute and a prison respectively under section 115 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 for refusing to agree to be bound over to keep the peace.

Mr Julian Knowles for the appellants; Mr Cairns Nelson for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN, delivering the judgment of the court, said that before the court could properly find that the natural consequence of lawful conduct by a defendant would, if persisted in, be to provoke another to violence, it should be satisfied that in all the circumstances it was the defendant who was acting unreasonably rather than the other person.

Some interference at least with the rights of others was bound to characterise any conduct of which it could properly be said that it would naturally provoke violence in others. Putting it another way, the court would surely not find a section 115 complaint proved if any

violence likely to have been provoked on the part of others would be not merely unlawful but wholly unreasonable, as, of course, it would be if the defendant's conduct was not merely lawful but such as in no material way interfered with the other's rights.

For the defendant, if the defendant was properly exercising his own basic rights, whether of assembly, demonstration or free speech.

Applying that approach to the present case there could be no possible doubt as to whose behaviour, as between the parties, was unreasonable: plainly it was the appellants.

Solicitors: Mrs Tessa Green, Newcastle upon Tyne; CPS, Newcastle upon Tyne.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 22 1995

Board demands that both feuding chairman and chief executive go

Young and Ross ousted at C&W



Smith: seeking new chief

By ERIC REGULY

THE board of Cable and Wireless resolved the feud between Lord Young of Graffham, the executive chairman, and James Ross, the chief executive, by demanding the resignation of both yesterday.

Lord Young, 63, a former Trade and Industry Secretary, who became chairman in 1990, and Mr Ross, 57, the former chairman of BP America who became chief executive in 1992, will leave immediately, Brian Smith, 67, chairman of BAA, who was a non-executive director of C&W until last June, has been appointed non-executive chairman. He will lead a board committee that will find a new chief executive "as soon as possible".

The committee will look both

inside and outside the company for the new executive. Rod Olsen, C&W's finance director, is considered the most likely internal candidate. Duncan Lewis, the chief executive of 80 per cent-owned Mercury Communications who quit in a huff in September, partly because he did not get along with Mr Ross, is also thought to be one of the outside candidates. His chances of being offered the job, however, are said to be slim.

The ousting of both Lord Young and Mr Ross came as a surprise. Only last week, the non-executive board members, led by Win Bischoff, the chairman of Schroders, told Lord Young that he could remain as executive chairman until his 65th birthday on February 27, 1997. They suggested that Mr Ross leave in March. Lord

Young appeared pleased with the arrangement. Mr Ross, however, balked. He considered that keeping both executives in place for another five months unworkable. One C&W official said: "He thought it was the wrong solution because the management uncertainty continued." Final-

The big loser 29

ly, after two days of intense meetings in London, the board decided the personality conflict between Lord Young and Mr Ross had reached the point that they should leave immediately.

C&W was relieved that the executive feud, which had virtually paralysed the £9.6 billion company, has

come to an end. Mr Olsen said: "The period of uncertainty is now over. To have two senior executives not working well together was damaging to this operation in terms of reputation and what was going on inside the company."

C&W shares had underperformed the market, partly because Lord Young and Mr Ross seemed as interested in "peripheral" deals, such as making minority investments in small overseas telecoms operators, more than overall strategic direction. Neither executive was able to promote the benefits of the group's global "federation" strategy to investors.

The shares rose 9p, to 429p, yesterday afternoon as rumours circulated that the management turmoil

was about to end. Takeover speculation helped to fuel the rise. The company denied it was in talks with any potential bidder. Neither Lord Young nor Mr Ross have immediate employment plans. Mr Ross is likely to join other boards as a non-executive director and devote more time to Manchester Business School, where he is chairman.

Severance packages have not been worked out yet. Mr Ross, who was on a one-year rolling contract, had a salary of £391,000 per year. Lord Young, who was not on a contract, has a salary of £479,000. At last count, he had almost one million share options, the majority of them granted at 210p. Cashing them in could make him several million pounds.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	
FT-SE 100	3804.1 (-24.7)
Yield	3.57%
FT-SE All share	1765.73 (-11.24)
Nikkei	18384.32 (+0.50)
Dow Jones	4994.05 (+11.50)
S&P Composite	587.53 (+0.58)
US DOLLAR	
Federal Funds	5 1/4% (5 1/4%)
Long Bond	100 1/4 (100 1/4)
Yield	6.25% (6.25%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month interbank	6 1/4% (6 1/4%)
Life long gilt	108 1/4 (108 1/4)
Future (Dec)	108 1/4 (108 1/4)
STERLING	
New York	1.5582* (1.5540)
London	1.5585* (1.5497)
DM	2.1958 (2.1858)
FF	7.5530 (7.5300)
SFr	1.7744 (1.7643)
Yen	168.24 (157.14)
£ Index	82.7 (82.2)
DOLLAR	
London	1.4095* (1.4075)
DM	4.8655* (4.8542)
FF	1.1378* (1.1360)
Yen	101.65* (101.35)
£ Index	92.8 (92.0)
Tokyo close Yen 101.50	
MARKET SECTOR	
Brent 15-day (Feb)	\$18.55 (\$18.60)
Oil	40.00
London close	\$386.35 (\$386.40)
* denotes midday trading price	

Losses by names set to total £11bn by spring

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LOSSES suffered by Lloyd's names since 1988 will reach a total of £11.4 billion by next spring, according to a "spine-chilling" interim report published by a high-level names' committee yesterday.

The committee expressed its concern that "names' expectations of the settlement are still higher than can be achieved with the funds available."

The committee was set up in July to advise Lloyd's council on the allocation of a proposed £2.8 billion settlement offer. Names have already paid out £5.3 billion, and even after the settlement offer the committee estimated names will owe £2.1 billion to cover their losses at Lloyd's, of which £1.5 billion will come from funds already held at Lloyd's.

Sir Adam Ridley, the Hambros director who chairs the committee, said the £2.8 billion funds available would be insufficient to enable Lloyd's to achieve the three objectives of assisting names to ensure the bill they will have to pay to offload their liabilities is affordable, help the hardest-hit names and settle litigation.

Privately, Lloyd's names are confident that up to £500 million more can be found to take the value of the settlement pot up to £3.3 billion. Lloyd's errors-and-omissions insurers are expected to increase the size of their contribution from £750 million to £1 billion. Names hope Lloyd's agents can be persuaded to increase their contribution from £50 million to £100 million, and it is hoped that auditors and brokers will contribute another £200 million.

Sir Adam said he believed that there was "a decent chance" of obtaining extra money from auditors, brokers, agents and errors-and-omissions underwriters.

Ron Sandler, Lloyd's new chief executive, hinted last week that further funds might be found. But in a letter to names this week, David Row-

land, chairman of Lloyd's, said: "We can offer no assurance that the offer will exceed the target of £2.8 billion set in the reconstruction plan."

The report reveals the wide disparity between the level of financial hardship suffered by names on different underwriting syndicates. It shows that 30 per cent of Lloyd's 34,000 names, who are the worst hit, will face a so-called "finality bill" greater than their funds held at Lloyd's. A finality bill is the payment required to offload their liabilities to Equitas, a new reinsurance company being set up by Lloyd's.

The committee hopes that if the settlement resources can be increased, these names will have their finality bill capped at £50,000. If names can demonstrate their inability to pay, they could be assisted by a tranche of funds set aside to help them.

The report shows that 5,000 names, or 15 per cent of the total, face losses of more than £600,000 while 9 per cent, or 3,200 people, are suffering losses of more than 200 per cent of their premium income limit - the amount a name agreed to underwrite. At the other extreme, 2,500 of them are in profit.

The new £11.4 billion gross-loss figure from 1988 includes that amount already paid. It also includes the £1.9 billion cost to names of establishing Equitas.

Names who have turned to litigation, or refused to pay Lloyd's bills, have, on average, far greater losses than those who have paid up, the report shows. The loss for the average litigating name is £480,000 compared with £190,000 on average for non-litigating names. A total of 13,600 names have turned to litigation.

The committee will produce formal recommendations for allocating the funds before Christmas.



Painting a brighter picture: Paul Humphreys, the finance director of McLeod Russel Holdings, is optimistic about prospects after the paints to air filtration and environmental engineering group saw a 35 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £8.6 million in the year to September 30. A final dividend of 3.65p (3.45p) makes 6.4p (6.2p) for the year.

Pollution risk may be lost from cover

POLLUTION cover could be stripped out of general commercial insurance policies in the next year just as cover for terrorism was removed after bombings in the early 1990s, it was claimed yesterday (Marianne Curphey writes).

Risk managers in some of Britain's biggest industries fear the world's largest reinsurance companies are about to withdraw cover after lengthy and expensive court cases in the US. Separate pollution policies with reduced cover introduced towards the end of next year could be implemented from January 1, 1997.

The Association of Insurance and Risk Managers said yesterday that, if cover were withdrawn without proper consultation, businesses would lack coherent pollution protection. This could mean victims of explosions, chemical leaks and food tampering could find it impossible to claim damages from inadequately insured companies.

PW plan to limit liability imminent

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

PRICE WATERHOUSE, Britain's fifth-largest accountancy partnership, is expected to announce firm plans by Christmas to incorporate some or all of its operations.

Ian Brindle, senior partner, told an "alumni" dinner of former Price Waterhouse people that the pioneering incorporation plan of rival KPMG did not go far enough. KPMG is to turn part of its auditing business into a limited-liability company, but this would cover audits only of the biggest companies and high-profile clients.

Mr Brindle argued this did not give a complete answer to the potential threat of bankruptcy facing partners in Big Six accounting firms from the many huge lawsuits on both sides of the Atlantic. He suggested PW would soon have a more comprehensive scheme.

Industry observers believe this could cover the whole audit business, the largest

part of the firm. Alternatively, it could include the entire firm, embracing tax, consultancy and corporate-finance work. Partners have been unwilling to turn their operations into limited companies because they would lose the tax and other advantages.

PW's partners are particularly aware of the threat of big lawsuits that blame auditors for the collapse of companies. As the last auditors of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, PW faced potential claims of \$11 billion from Touche Ross, the rival firm that acts as BCCI's liquidator, although this has since come down to about \$250 million.

In America, the Big Six have been able to form limited liability partnerships. The Senate has also passed a Bill limiting claims against auditors to their proportionate liability for collapses.

Pennington, page 27

Thorn EMI hits a higher note

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THORN EMI, the records and rentals company, yesterday announced a 27 per cent increase in half-year profits to £176 million and predicted an excellent second half on the back of a swinging Christmas.

EMI, the record division, is putting out releases by what Sir Colin Southgate, the chairman, described as its strongest line-up of recording artists before the Christmas rush, including the Beatles' single and anthology unveiled this week, a new Queen album, Frank Sinatra's 80th birthday collection and a greatest hits compilation from UB40.

The company said that it hoped to make a statement on its proposed merger in the spring. Sir Colin said: "We have not hit any brick walls, but merger is a complex task to complete."

The share price closed down 24p at 152.3p. The dividend was increased 7.7 per cent to 10.5p, payable on March 1, 1996.

Pennington, page 27

Trade blow

The City was surprised as Britain's trade deficit with countries outside the EU soared to its highest monthly figure on record in October. A shortfall of £1.19 billion compared with £696 million in September. Page 26

Land control

British Land has secured control over Broadgate Properties, the private company that owns the Broadgate and Ludgate office complexes in the City of London, for £120 million. John Riblat's property group is also making a £222 million share placing. Page 27

SFO to investigate computer company

By ROBERT MILLER



Coe: personal intervention

DETECTIVES from the Serious Fraud Office and Devon and Cornwall police will launch an official investigation next week into a failed West Country computer company that received £850,000 of taxpayers' money.

The Department of Trade and Industry gave the grants to Rom Data Corporation of Falmouth. Earlier this month, it passed the company's papers to the SFO. The DTI is under mounting parliamentary pressure to explain how it gave the money away, without running appropriate credit checks on its directors. Other creditors include National Westminster Bank, which is owed £250,000.

Some £250,000 of the DTI's grant was given after the personal intervention of

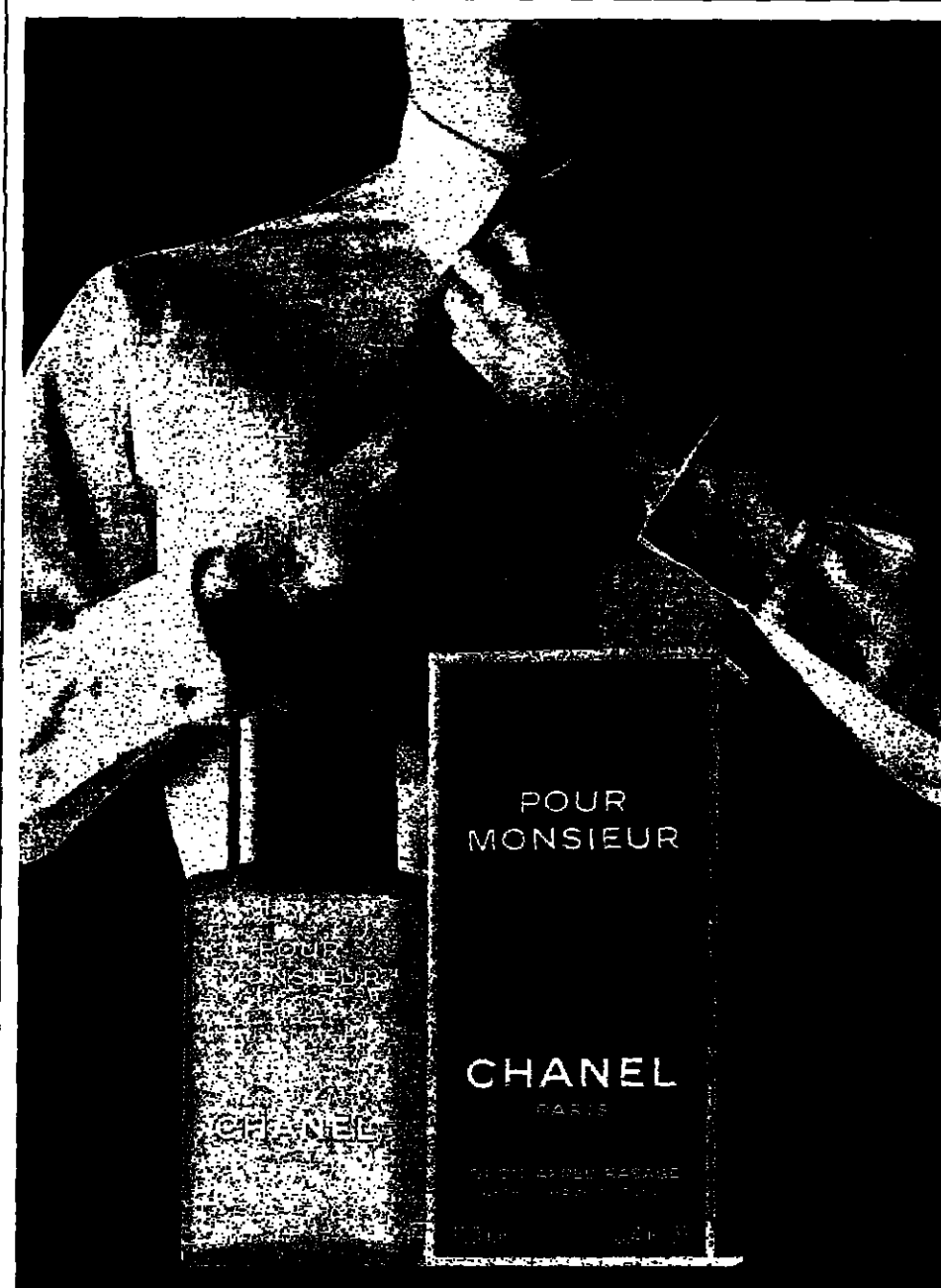
Sebastian Coe, the Conservative MP for Falmouth and Camborne, when he was approached by employees of Rom Data, who are now owed £200,000 in wages. These employees will be interviewed by fraud squad officers next week.

One of the directors, John Dawson, a former Conservative city councillor in Bath who is believed to be in Ireland, has a history of bad debts in Britain and the Caribbean. A second director, Brad Shepherd, an American, was declared bankrupt at Truro Crown and County Court last month. In the early 1980s, Mr Dawson's company, John Dawson Motor (Holdings), collapsed and he left the UK before a bankruptcy hearing into his company's debts of £1.4 million and £893,597 of personal debts. A warrant for his arrest was issued after he failed to

appear at a public examination and the file was passed to the Director of Public Prosecutions by the Avon and Somerset police. The DPP did not proceed.

David Jamieson, Labour MP for Plymouth, Devonport, who has tabled a number of questions on Rom Data, last night called for a formal investigation into how the DTI failed to detect Mr Dawson's history of bankruptcy despite apparent checks with Companies House and the Insolvency Service. The DTI admits that it may have failed to check Rom Data's directors in 1991.

Mr Jamieson said: "I have now asked for a statement about the results of inquiries into the background of the directors of Rom Data before a grant was made and if those inquiries revealed the former bankruptcies of any of the directors."



POUR MONSIEUR
ELEGANCE IS TIMELESS

CHANEL

Brewery raises dividend

Mansfield Brewery, the regional brewer and pubs company, is increasing the interim dividend to 1.7p (1.5p) a share after a rise in pre-tax profits to £9.5 million (£8.8 million) for the 26 weeks to September 30. Earnings were 10.34p (9.36p) a share. The dividend is due December 22. Sales rose 1.1 per cent.

Faupel fall

Faupel Trading Group, the textile importer, is cutting the interim dividend to 0.7p (1.85p) a share after a fall in profits to £337,000 (£546,000) in the six months to September 30. Earnings fell to 1.93p (3.13p). Shares fell 7p to 30p. The dividend is due February 14.

NSM forecast

NSM, the coal-mining group, is restoring the interim dividend at 1.5p. It forecasts a rise to the previous full-year dividend of 4p. Half-year pre-tax profits to September 30 were £2.5 million (£2.7 million). Shares held at 93p.

City surprised as October deficit reaches high in a widening trend

Non-EU trade shows £1.2bn gulf

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S trade deficit with countries outside the European Union soared to its highest monthly figure on record in October, a shortfall of £1.19 billion compared with £696 million in September.

The Central Statistical Office (CSO) said that this was the largest monthly deficit since its figures were first split

into EU and non-EU trade in 1988.

The shortfall was far larger than the City had expected. The consensus was for a deficit of around £800 million. The deterioration could not be put down to one-off special factors. The deficit, excluding oil and erratics, widened to £951 million, also a record high, from £581 million in September. Meanwhile, the CSO also released figures

confirming a substantial build-up of stocks in the third quarter, first hinted at in Monday's revised gross domestic product figures. Manufacturers' stocks rose by £900 million, the biggest quarterly gain since early 1977. Against the same period last year, manufacturers' stocks are up 5.3 per cent, the biggest gain since late 1974.

Everything now points to a further sharp slowdown in the

economy, perhaps into spring next year, as firms cut output and probably prices in order to shift these unwanted stocks.

Other figures showed a 2.3 per cent increase in manufacturing investment in the third quarter. There was a healthy gain in investment in plant and machinery but little investment in vehicles and a drop in buildings spending.

Some City commentators suggested that the surprising

strength of imports, given that domestic demand has been sluggish, might reflect rising investment in plant and machinery. Much of this is made overseas.

CSO statisticians said that the non-EU trade gap is now on a widening trend. In the three months to October, the deficit was £2.88 billion compared with £2.24 billion in the previous three-month period.

□ The Labour Party yesterday

lambasted the Government's Private Finance Initiative which, it said, had run up a catalogue of failures since its inception in 1992.

Andrew Smith, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Alistair Darling, spokesman on City affairs, proposed a five-point plan which they said would help break the logjam of projects which are being held up by red tape and the Government's "doctrinaire hang-ups". Only £500 million of private finance has been levered into public projects, yet in 1993-94 and 1994-95, public investment dropped £2 billion.

Labour urged the Government to get priorities that would enable private sector firms to choose more sensibly which of the current 78 projects they should tender for, set clear guidelines on the terms on which the private sector is required to submit tenders; streamline the decision-making process; set guidelines for sharing of risk between government and private entities; allow local authorities to invest more of their capital receipts in housing and infrastructure.

Public more at risk in workplace

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

CUSTOMERS and other members of the public were victims in more than one in four workplace fatalities last year, according to the latest report from the Health and Safety Commission.

Although the total number of workplace fatalities is estimated to have risen by just three, to 406, during the year to April, fatalities to members of the public reached 123, the highest level since 1990-91.

Frank Davies, commission chairman, expressed concern about the rise in fatalities among the public, and the self-employed. He said the commission would also focus on occupational ill-health. It has begun a four-year campaign with the slogan "Good Health is Good Business".

Overall, the trend of work-related deaths has continued downwards, to about 12 per 100,000 workers, partly attributed to a shift in employment from manufacturing to service industries. But the death rate among farm workers is almost six times the average, and almost four times among building workers.

Maxwells 'gambled' with pensioners' shares

ROBERT MAXWELL and his son Kevin deliberately used shares they knew belonged to a pension fund to support the private Maxwell companies, a jury heard yesterday. Pledging and selling the shares "was not in the pensioners' interests", Alan Suckling, QC, told the Central Criminal Court.

He said that in 1991 both father and son knew the Robert Maxwell Group was surviving on a hand-to-mouth basis, so they used £100 million of shares in Scitex, an Israeli company, which they knew belonged to the pension fund, to stave off the crisis. The Maxwells knew they were putting the pension fund at risk by

pledging the shares and finally selling them to pay private company debts.

They knew they were acting dishonestly, alleged Mr Suckling, as he began the prosecution closing speech on the 106th day of the trial. Mr Suckling said that as the crisis deepened, Kevin lied to, and misled, banks to secure more time and further support.

He said that when father and son decided to use the Scitex shares, it was not in the interest of the pension fund. "The truth is they didn't care. They were only interested in saving the Maxwell empire. This gave power and created wealth and it cannot have been a desire to lose that. It was to save all that, was it not, that

pension fund shares were used in this way. The motive was that they had to."

Mr Suckling emphasised that the case was not an inquiry into the collapse of the Maxwell empire or who was to blame for it. It was about fraud on the pension fund.

Kevin Maxwell, 36, his brother Ian, 39, and Larry Trachtenberg, 42, a former Maxwell financial adviser, deny conspiracy to defraud by misusing £22 million of shares in Teva, another Israeli company.

Kevin alone denies a similar charge of conspiring with his father in relation to the Scitex shares and it was this charge that Mr Suckling concentrated on yesterday.

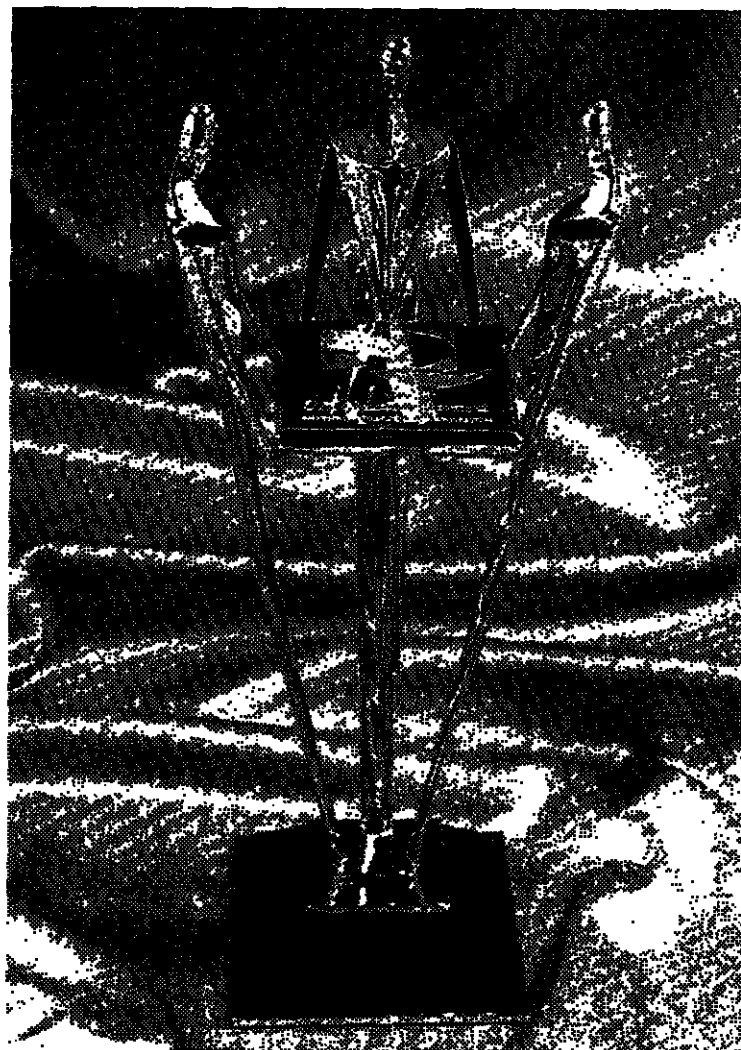
The trial was adjourned until today.



Kevin Maxwell: "power"

WHAT A PERFORMANCE!

ICL

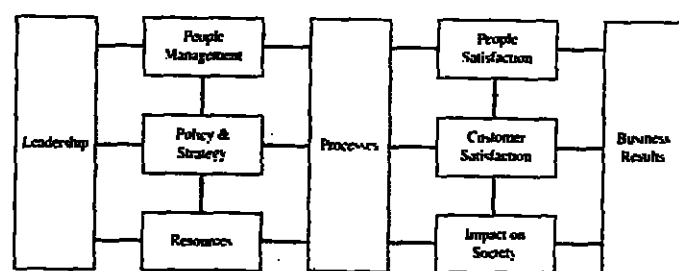


LAST NIGHT ICL HIGH PERFORMANCE TECHNOLOGY RECEIVED THE 1995 UK QUALITY AWARD, THE UK'S PREMIER AWARD FOR BUSINESS EXCELLENCE.

CONGRATULATIONS

The British Quality Foundation congratulates Tom Hinchliffe, Managing Director, the management board and all the employees of ICL High Performance Technology. They have demonstrated an exceptional level of achievement in the pursuit of business excellence. Along with all the other applicants, they submitted themselves to rigorous assessment against the Business Excellence Model. At the Ceremony held last night at the Grosvenor House the Rt Hon Ian Lang MP, President of the Board of Trade, presented the trophy to Tom Hinchliffe.

More and more organisations are using self assessment against the model to review their activities and are seeing positive benefits in terms of customer and employee satisfaction as well as business results.



THE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE MODEL (UK/EUROPEAN MODEL FOR TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT)

For more information about self assessment, membership of the British Quality Foundation and the 1996 UK Quality Award please contact: The British Quality Foundation, 215 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1EN. Telephone: 0171 963 8000 Fax: 0171 963 8001.

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BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

Crossrail's 'threat' to Railtrack flotation

THE flotation of Railtrack could be put in jeopardy if the £2.8 billion Crossrail plan to build a new rail line linking east and west London is given the go-ahead, a confidential government report said yesterday. A 200-page study of the scheme, drawn up by Nick Montagu, a senior Department of Transport official, said the sheer size of the Crossrail project would "complicate" the sale of Railtrack.

"It would not be desirable to structure Railtrack's privatisation balance sheet around Crossrail, not least because of an unnecessary reduction in proceeds if the project did not subsequently go ahead," the report said. But cancellation of Crossrail "would probably not hinder Railtrack privatisation; it would at least give certainty."

Dasa package approved

A RESTRUCTURING package aimed at cutting \$496 million a year from the operating costs of Daimler Benz Aerospace (Dasa) was approved by the board of the German parent company yesterday. About 8,800 workers will lose their jobs and three factories, at Laupheim, Peissenberg and Speyer will be sold. Dasa lost \$1.1 billion during the first half, partly because of the strength of the German mark and weakness of demand for civil aircraft, including the Airbus range, where it is a 38 per cent partner.

Sketchley edges ahead

SKETCHLEY, the dry cleaner and photographic processor, enjoyed a rise in profits to £4.3 million before tax from £4 million in the half year to September 30 in spite of a 7 per cent decline in sales in the retail division as a result of the abnormally hot summer and branch closures. Earnings were 5p a share (4.5p). The interim dividend is lifted to 1.1p a share from 1p, due December 21. David Davies, chairman, said the SupaSnaps photo-processing business gained market share after pricing changes were implemented.

Shanks lifts profits

SHANKS & McEWAN GROUP, the waste-management company, lifted pre-tax profits to £10.8 million from £9.8 million in the half-year to September 30, helped by lower interest charges and elimination of losses from the construction division, which has been sold. The provision for aftercare at landfill sites rose £1.2 million to £1.7 million. Earnings were 3.7p a share (3.6p), reflecting a higher tax charge. The interim dividend was 1.2p a share (1.1p), payable January 12. The shares rose 3p to 92p.

RIT Capital advances

RIT Capital Partners, the investment trust managed by J Rothschild Capital Management, achieved a 16 per cent rise in net asset value to 247.5p a share in the half-year to September 30, compared with a 12.7 per cent rise in the FT-SE all-share index. The shares rose 6p to 206p. The portfolio was valued at £580 million. Pre-tax profits of £2.4 million compared with a £3.6 million deficit previously, when dealing losses were £5.3 million. Earnings were 1.02p a share (1.28p loss). There is again no interim dividend.

Tesco board changes

TESCO has confirmed that Sir Ian MacLaurin is to retire as chairman in 1997 after 12 years at the helm. Sir Ian, 58, will be succeeded on a part-time basis by John Gardiner, a deputy chairman who has acted as a non-executive director since 1988. The group will create a new post of chief executive, to be taken up by Terry Leahy, the current deputy managing director, who joined the supermarket group in 1979. Also retiring in 1997 will be David Malpas, former chairman and managing director.

Pillar in Liffe offices deal

CANNON BRIDGE, the Thames riverside headquarters of Liffe, the financial futures exchange, has been sold to Pillar Property Investments and General Electric Pension Trust of the America for £64 million (Carl Moritz writes).

The building, which straddles Cannon Street station, was developed by Speyhawk, the quoted property group which collapsed under its debts in 1993. The building's 277,500 sq ft are fully occupied with Liffe contributing over half of the current rental income of £6.2 million. Pillar said yesterday that the property would produce a yield of 11 per cent.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.10	2.08
Austria Sch	16.42	14.82
Belgium Fr	48.04	43.74
Canada \$	2.07	2.04
Cyprus Cyp	0.739	0.694
Denmark Kr	13.66	12.66
Finland Mk	5.10	4.85
France Fr	7.37	7.32
Germany Dr	1.36	1.34
Greece Dr	378.78	353.78
Hong Kong \$	12.68	11.86
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.1900	4.3900
Italy Lira	2078.07	8499.00
Japan Yen	171.88	155.98
Malta	0.567	0.532
Netherlands Gld	2.207	2.171
New Zealand \$	2.52	2.30
Norway Kr	240.50	222.00
Portugal Esc	200.48	182.50
Spain Ptas	166.39	152.50
Sweden Kr	10.84	10.04
Switzerland Sfr	1.48	1.42
Turkey Lira	1667	78591.0
USA \$	1.851	1.821

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

سكزا من الامن

□ Bidder could step in at Cable and Wireless □ Accountants square up to legal threat □ Market looks for Thorn break-up

C&W orders a double firing squad

□ THEY couldn't make up their minds, so they shot them both. There is a certain rough justice in the final decision of the Cable and Wireless non-executive directors. Lord Young had always looked the more likely one for the firing squad, but it was a finely poised decision.

He was the man who, in his days in government, was responsible for the grant of a mobile phone licence to C&W, so the company owed him a debt before he joined. As a wheeler-dealer he then opened a number of doors, some of which might more profitably have been kept shut.

Lord Young of Graffham was beloved of Baroness Thatcher because he brought her solutions where others brought problems, but he has created a fair few difficulties for C&W. He had a clear departure date already in his diary, in February 1997, and it should have been up to him to move this date forward somewhat, rather than allow so much dirty linen to be washed in public. This was certainly the preferred solution in the City, even if both men's departure was almost as acceptable.

James Ross was an able if unexciting manager. The two should have been able to rub along together, the one thinking

lofty and strategic thoughts and the other looking after the wires and the detail, a pattern that has worked happily elsewhere.

Instead, the public rift that opened up between the two was put down to a difference in strategy. It probably was not, but was instead a more personal enmity. That is history now, and they should be left to cope with whatever huge pay-offs they eventually negotiate.

The appointment of the BAA chairman as Lord Young's replacement, although flagged as permanent, has a temporary look to it. It is startling to realise that C&W's market capitalisation, the worth of a world-spanning business with huge growth prospects, is still within striking distance of that of domestic little Vodafone.

Against C&W's £9.5 billion stock market value, analysts dream of a break-up value of £13 billion or more. Last night's decision may pull in someone at last to put the company out of its misery. The Americans would be

interested, so would BT even if Mercury had to be sold, to provide missing coverage in Asia. But Veba, the group's German partner and now with a 10.5 per cent holding, must be reflecting that this is not the way they do things in Germany, and there must be some temptation in Düsseldorf to step in and teach the British how it is done.

The transfer of yet another British world-beater into foreign hands may be greeted with enthusiasm in the City but certainly nowhere else. The management will all take responsibility for any such outcome. Especially Lord Young.

PW to break the KPMG mould?

□ PRICE WATERHOUSE'S plans to counter big-ticket lawsuits will be awaited with unusual interest next month. Have Ian Brindle and his senior colleagues managed to come up with something new? KPMG's



pioneer proposal to ring-fence its most vulnerable audit business was minimalist, but that has not stopped it encountering more private flak than Colin Sharman, the senior partner, had hoped. Some partners fear the tax and cash flow benefits of partnership status been lost for nothing. As Mr Brindle has quickly sussed, part incorporation might not deter ingenious lawyers from joining all the firm's partners in their big ticket lawsuits.

Others fear a backlash, not least from present and potential clients, when publication of the firm's full figures in the new year unlocks the deepest secret of all:

how much top accountants earn. In a good year, more than 20 top partners could be seeing about £500,000, with workaday London partners possibly grossing £200,000. Never would so vast a pride of fat cats have been uncovered at one go.

Extending UK limited liability status to the whole firm might remove the bankruptcy threat but would widen the loss of partnership status. PW partners are keenly aware of that threat. As last auditor of BCCI, the firm faced a potential joint and several claim of \$11 billion. This shrank to \$250 million, but by then alarm bells were ringing. UK Big Six firms are already thought to be spending 8 per cent of turnover on professional indemnity insurance, and cover is becoming ever thinner.

In America, where lawsuits cost even more, legislative help may be at hand. A Bill passed by the Senate would limit claims against auditors to their proportionate share of the firm's revenue. Little chance of that here. And US Big Six firms

found a convenient limited liability partnership available in Delaware. UK firms would love a Delaware on EU territory.

Sir Colin's dance spins out of control

□ SIR COLIN Southgate may be a skilled necromancer, able to call spirits from the vasty deep and propel their warblings to the top of the charts. But he has rather less control over rumours of a Thorn EMI demerger.

Thorn was once a manufacturer of a range of electrical goods, mostly of the sort no longer made west of Suez. Various less profitable bits have been filed off since, until the group now stands largely on two legs, one being among the world's big five record companies.

The stock market can cope with diversified conglomerates, provided not too many of the constituent parts lose money. It understands single unit businesses. But the City has trouble with

dual entities working in unconnected areas such as Thorn and, in the past, BAT Industries.

Market rumours in spring 1994 prompted Sir Colin to dismiss the idea of a demerger at last year's annual meeting, at which point the Thorn share price was in the £10 area. By the time he was prepared to countenance the idea, a year later, rumour had forced it up to £14, a price uncoupled from the fundamentals of the business.

The shares fell to £15 and a bit yesterday looks temporary, as there are few long-term sellers. Sir Colin says the board will decide whether to demerge next March. If the decision is no, the City will look to someone else to do it for them.

Lukewarm water

□ IS WELSH WATER blowing hot and cold over its bid for South Wales Electricity? First the National Grid float was the reason for last Friday's break-up of talks. A further round was suggested for, if you please, just moments after the Budget speech, but put off for Wednesday. The worry is a windfall tax on utilities — as if this has bothered other buyers in the sector. Once they were made of sterner stuff in the valleys.

UB to incur £76m charge from US exit

United Biscuits (Holdings) will incur a £76.1 million exceptional charge in this year's accounts after completing its US exit with the sale of its loss-making Salty Snack business in America for \$8 million to a group of private investors.

More females

Women now account for 32 per cent of managers within the 293 member companies of Opportunity 2000, an organisation that promotes women in management, compared with 10.7 per cent in the economy at large.

Profit steady

Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings, the insurance broker, reported unchanged pre-tax profits of £6 million for the six months to September 30. The interim dividend is 2.5p (2.75p).

Belfast jobs

Montpet, the French manufacturer of car components, is to invest £142 million in West Belfast, creating 1,360 jobs over the next six years.

Rule change

The Jockey Club is to introduce tough new rules on companies which raise money from the public.

British Land pays £120m for control over Broadgate

By CARL MORTSHED

BRITISH LAND has secured control over Broadgate Properties, the private company which owns the Broadgate and Ludgate office complexes in the City of London. The quoted property group, headed by John Ritblat, yesterday said it had reached agreement with the receiver of Rosehaugh to acquire the outstanding half-share of Broadgate for £120 million.

British Land also announced a share placing to raise £222 million, part of which will finance the acquisition for £148 million of seven Tesco supermarkets and three retail warehouses.

The company is placing 61.5 million shares at 370p, a discount of 6 per cent to the previous day's close. Existing shareholders will be offered an opportunity to participate on a one-for-six basis and British Land intends to declare an interim dividend for the half year to September 30 of 2.75p, up 5 per cent.

The property group has pursued the ownership of the Broadgate properties for almost two years. The agreement with KPMG, Rosehaugh's receivers, brings about £1 billion of property on to British Land's balance sheet

along with some £800 million of debt. John Weston Smith, finance director, said that British Land would be able to reduce the financing cost of Broadgate's loans, currently set at 150 basis points over Libor, the London inter-bank offer rate. "We expect to reduce it by more than 1 per cent," he said.

British Land acquired its half share in Broadgate in March after a lengthy battle for control of Stanhope Properties, the partner of Rosehaugh in the development of the award-winning complex adjoining Liverpool Street station. The property

group waged a negotiating battle with Hermes, the fund management group (then Postel), for Stanhope Properties, acquiring a 29 per cent interest in February. In March, it secured agreement from Stanhope's board, for a 3p per share takeover. The deal valued Stanhope at £135 million including the company's debts which were acquired for £122 million.

The seven freehold Tesco supermarkets, which include the 12-acre site at Brent Park, Neasden, will add to a portfolio of some four million sq ft of food retailing space. The properties are let to Tesco until 2020 and initial rental income of £10.7 million will benefit from a fixed uplift at the first five-year review.

The balance of the money raised will pay off borrowings taken on to finance purchases, including the Swiss Centre at Leicester Square and a joint venture on put properties with Scottish & Newcastle. The company has £400 million of committed capital expenditure, including yesterday's deal and British Land's £250 million debenture issue last month.



Ritblat: two-year pursuit

Tempos, page 28



Sir Gerald quashed speculation of a rights issue

Growth fears hit Vodafone shares

By ERIC REGULY

SHARES of Vodafone, the country's largest mobile phone operator, slumped yesterday despite stronger half-year results, a 20 per cent rise in the interim dividend and a lower disconnection rate.

The shares, which were down 6.4p before the release of the results, initially climbed sharply, then changed direction to close at 239p, down 15p from Monday.

The City blamed profit-taking and concerns, voiced after an afternoon meeting between analysts and management, whose chief executive is Sir Gerald Whent, that intensifying competition will reduce future growth and profit margins.

Vodafone's pre-tax profits rose 12 per cent to £208.1 million in the half year to the

end of September on turnover of £666.4 million, up 19 per cent. Operating profits were £200.1 million, up 15 per cent, and earnings per share 4.39p against 3.92p. The interim dividend, due on February 12, rises from 1.64p to 1.97p.

The company attributed the better results partly to reduced losses, or profits, at its foreign start-up operations.

Vodafone said that it has 2.2 million subscribers in Britain, after having connected 372,000 customers in the half-year period, up from 263,000. The annual disconnection rate has fallen from 28.5 per cent to 24.9 per cent.

Separately, Sir Gerald quashed speculation of a rights issue.

Tempos, page 28

RIT Capital Partners plc

Outperformance continues

Performance Summary

	Half year (Six months to 30 Sept '95)	Long term (From inception to 30 Sept '95)
RITCP's diluted net asset value per share	+16.0%	+133.5%
FT-SE-A All-Share Index	+12.7%	+79.3%
Investment Trust Net Assets Index	+11.7%	+72.9%
Morgan Stanley Capital International (in £)	+12.4%	+66.3%

Source: Datastream

* August 1988

■ RITCP, the investment trust managed by J. Rothschild Capital Management, continues to outperform the relevant indices with a 16% increase in the half year to 30 September. Since inception in 1988 RITCP has significantly outperformed these indices.

■ RITCP's focus is on long-term capital growth with a strong bias towards quoted securities, which represent two thirds of the £580 million portfolio.

■ Since the half year end RITCP's value has increased further, due mainly to the successful US flotation of the computer software company, Insignia Solutions. The latest net asset value per share (at 16 November) was 256.6p (fully diluted) compared with 247.5p at 30 September.

For a copy of the 1995 Interim Report please telephone 0171 493 8111.

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Legal & General

Northern Foods' profits dip

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

NORTHERN FOODS, the dairy and food manufacturer, reported a small drop in half-year pre-tax profits yesterday to £53.1 million (£53.7 million), but said it would return to profit growth in the second half of the year.

Northern announced a £90 million restructuring plan earlier this year of its prepared foods division and struggling dairy division with plans to pursue supermarket milk sales.

Dairy division sales were down 3.9 per cent to £464 million, while profits slid 17 per cent to £29.6 million.

Overall sales were static at £958 million. Prepared foods sales rose 4.1 per cent to £494 million, but profits fell £17 million to £34.7 million.

The shares rose 6p to 172p. The dividend was held at 3.5p a share, due on March 22.

Tempos, page 28

Warning note from De La Rue

By PATRICIA TEHAN

SHARES in De La Rue, the banknote printer, collapsed yesterday after it added to the woes in the printing industry with a warning that full-year earnings would not match last year's figure.

The shares lost 20 per cent of their value, falling 182p to 718p. The warning came after a 5 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £69.1 million for the first half to September 30, in spite of a 7.3 per cent rise in sales to £347.4 million.

The dividend has been increased 3.6 per cent to 7.25p, payable on January 19, covered by earnings of 23p, down 17.3 per cent.

Last year's earnings per share were 55.1p, and forecasts are now for about 50p and for pre-tax profits of between £140 million and £150 million, compared with £146.6 million last time.

Tempos, page 28

Anglo Irish advances

ANGLO Irish Bankcorp has completed a decade of profits growth as a healthy home grown loan portfolio and acquisitions helped pre-tax profits to advance 32 per cent to £119.1 million in the year to

September 30 (Philip Pangalos writes).

The Dublin-based bank is confident of further progress. Advances expanded by 32 per cent to £1.07 billion during the period, while deposits grew 36 per cent to £1.61 billion. The bank said that it is well capitalised, highly liquid and in a position to continue growing, while capital ratios remain strong.

A final dividend of 12p, payable on January 17, gives a maintained total of 113.36p for the year, from earnings ahead 14 per cent to 115.7p (115.02p) a share.

NAMES

Last chance to defend your Assets, vote WEST now!

Gloomy trade news and C&W forecast halt run

YET another profits warning from a major company and news that Britain's trade deficit with the rest of the world had soared to its highest level for seven years brought the equity market's record-breaking run to a grinding halt.

This, combined with Wall Street's failure overnight to consolidate its position above the 5,000 level, convinced investors that the London market had run its course for the time being at least. Most have now decided to wait and see what the Chancellor has in store in Tuesday's Budget.

In the event, the FT-SE 100 index finished 24.7 down at 3,604.1, with turnover reaching almost 900 million shares. Confirmation of the departure of both Lord Young, chairman, and James Ross, chief executive, came after the official close of business and too late to affect shares of Cable and Wireless. Brokers last night said that either the new management would now extract full value from the shares, or the company would become the target of an unwanted bid. Either way, shareholders would benefit.

Earlier in the day the price had touched 440p, before ending the session 9p dearer at 429p as the company again became the subject of takeover talk. This followed reports that Craig McCaw, the billionaire financier behind McCaw Telecom, wants to bid.

The City doubts that he has the sort of financial backing that could land C&W, which currently boasts a price-tag of £9 billion. It is more likely that McCaw would team up with BT and concentrate his efforts on Mercury, leaving BT to mop up the rest of the company. It has always been thought that BT would like to bid for C&W, but has been prevented because of Mercury. BT rose 54p to 361p.

Evidence of increased competition took the shine off an impressive first-half performance from Vodafone, leaving the share price 15p down at 239p as almost 36 million shares were traded. Brokers believe Vodafone has begun losing ground to rival Orange, owned jointly by Hutchison Whampoa and British Aerospace, up 24p at 773p. Orange is expected to be floated within the next year or two and is already calculated to be worth at least 100p a share to BAE.

Pre-tax profits at Vodafone in the first six months were up



Guinness lost 6p on fears of an imminent share glut

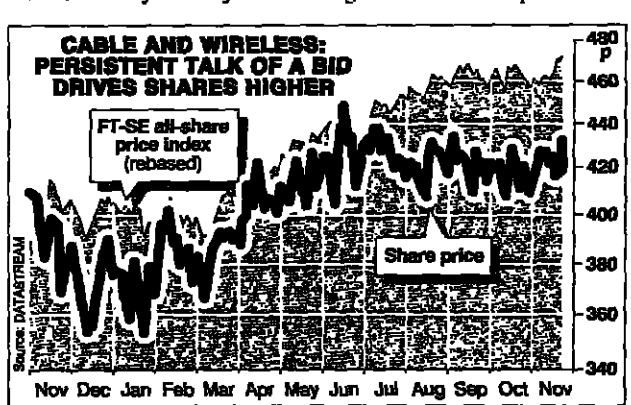
12 per cent at £208 million and were in line with market expectations. The group promised that growth would continue apace. New subscribers were up from 263,000 to 372,000.

A warning that earnings this year will fail to match those achieved last time round left De La Rue 182p down at 718p as almost 12 million

Maid, the business information group, fell 36p to 269p, with brokers worried about further weakness in the shares. This follows reports that American investors will not pay more than 240p for shares as part of its US listing. But Stock Exchange rules forbid discounts of more than 10 per cent on placings.

shares changed hands. The bank note printer, which last year acquired Portals, blamed a downturn in its printing operation and a reduced contribution from DLR Giori. The news emerged as De La Rue unveiled a drop in half-year pre-tax profits of £3 million to £69.1 million. Earnings fell by 17 per cent.

The only positive news for De La Rue yesterday came



Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

expectations. Pre-tax profits were up from £137.9 million to £176.1 million, bolstered by a strong performance from its music division which saw sales up by almost a third. Sir Colin Southgate, chairman, said the group was pressing ahead with plans for a demerger sometime in the New Year.

The City breathed a sigh of relief at Northern Food's decision to maintain its dividend, despite the expected shortfall in profits at the half-way stage. The group also soothed brokers' frayed nerves by reassuring them that it had returned to profit growth since the start of the second half with the help of restructuring. The shares finished 6p better at 172p.

Shanks & McEwan, the waste disposal specialist, firmed 3p to 92p following a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits at the half-way stage to £10.8 million. Group sales were down following the sale of its construction division.

Metsec, the engineer, tumbled 26p to 96p after warning that profits for the current year would fall short of expectations. The group blamed weakness in some markets and re-scheduling of customer demand towards the end of the financial year. It also invested heavily in plant and equipment without being able to recover the costs.

Shares of Black & Edgington were suspended at 9p pending clarification of the company's financial position and shareholder approval of reorganisation proposals. GILT-EDGED: All eyes are now focused on the Budget, which means that bonds were left to their own devices for much of the day. Prices traded in narrow limits, hoping to establish a new trading range, without much success.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt finished just a tick higher at £108 1/2 in thin trading. By the close of business just 31,000 contracts had been completed.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 finished 1/2 down at £100 1/2, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a tick easier at £103 1/2. NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street rose on selective buying of blue chips and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 11.56 points higher at 4,994.65.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 4994.65 (+11.56) S&P Composite 597.83 (+0.99)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 15384.32 (+0.50)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 9452.00 (+78.18)

Amsterdam: AEX Index 461.30 (+1.23)

Sydney: All Ordinaries 2138.77 (+12.3)

Frankfurt: DAX 2205.06 (+13.29)

Singapore: Straits Times 2102.64 (+15.79)

Brussels: C2X Index 7970.23 (+11.91)

Paris: CAC-40 1872.93 (+4.47)

Zurich: SMI 696.40 (+1.20)

London: FT 30 3604.1 (-24.7)

FT 100 3604.1 (-24.7)

FT 250 3604.1 (-24.7)

FT 40 3604.1 (-24.7)

FT 100 Mid 30 3604.1 (-24.7)

FT 100 All-Share 3604.1 (-24.7)

FT 100 Financials 3604.1 (-24.7)

FT 100 Industrials 3604.1 (-24.7)

FT 100 Services 3604.1 (-24.7)

FT 100 Utilities 3604.1 (-24.7)

FT 100 Real Estate 3604.1 (-24.7)

FT 100 Technology 3604.1 (-24.7)

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FT 100 Consumer Goods 3604.1 (-24.7)

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TEMPUS

Land of paper

BRITISH LAND is expanding at a colossal rate and yesterday the company was forced to pay for that expansion with an issue of shares. That is scarcely surprising as yesterday's deals will not only add another £148 million of retail property to the portfolio but will consolidate £1 billion of real estate including £800 million of debt - the Broadgate and Ludgate office complexes - on to British Land's balance sheet.

The company is already quite highly geared but financing is not the concern here. British Land will be able to improve substantially the cash flow of Broadgate properties with a refinancing. The company has done well with its portfolio of supermarkets in the past and has once again secured minimum rental uplifts. That is a useful guarantee at a time when rental growth is elusive elsewhere and recent

planning restrictions should protect the value of the larger out of town sheds. Property investment companies are not supposed to buy assets with shares. More than a year ago when the property shares were trading near or above asset value, the rationale for using paper to buy property was clear but British Land is issuing paper at a discount of some 12 per cent to market estimates of its net asset value. The deal is small enough for the dilution to be minimal and the company points out that a 1 per cent upward shift in the value of the portfolio would more than wipe out the net asset loss. Investors confident of that shift will like British Land shares but the market has waited a long time for good rental growth in the City of London and new developments are springing up round every corner.

De La Rue

DE LA RUE dragged some City analysts off a cloud yesterday and in the process brought its own share price crashing to earth. The company's performance was disappointing in the first half and its accompanying statement was all caution. That goes some, but not all of the way towards explaining the 22 per cent collapse in the share price. The real trouble is that De La Rue was thought to be a growth stock. The banknote business has experienced massive expansion over the past three years, growing by 20 per cent when demand was growing in low single digits. Inevitably there had to be a correction. The order book has picked up again, though prices are at lower levels over excess printing capacity in the industry. Although banknote



Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

Northern Foods

NORTHERN FOODS has worked hard over the past year to wean itself from the difficult milk market. Yesterday's results hit the top end of City expectations, proving that despite a small drop in profit, Northern did a good job in lowering its cost base. Reliance on milk sales has been reduced from 35 per cent of total sales at its peak to just a quarter of turnover. Assurances that profit growth will resume in the second half should help to strengthen a share which has lost nearly a third of its value in the past year. However, successful damage limitation does not guarantee growth in the business in the future and Northern still looks vulnerable to a difficult market. Its food manufacturing division is heavily dependent on sales to supermarkets at a time when margins are being pinched: the price of raw materials is rising but retailers are cutting their prices.

Vodafone

THE Vodafone share you have bought may not be switched off but the market was given a mixed message about growth in the UK. The problem is Christmas which last year generated some 120,000 new subscribers after only 30,000 hookups in November. Vodafone will probably beat last year's November sales but it is anyone's guess whether Britons will be stuffing their stockings with portable phones on December 24.

The jitters are partly down to the consumer but also to Orange. Vodafone's new competitor, which is doing a good job of luring the private subscriber, already under attack from Celfnet.

Future growth of portable phones in the UK is expected to be mainly from private users and in the spring, Vodafone made a clear pitch to move its business upmarket. Bonuses to distributors were cut as equipment prices fell and, as a result, new subscribers fell by 50,000 in the second quarter.

In a market that is maturing, like the UK, Vodafone is right to target a customer with a better credit rating, a move that should protect its margins. Vodafone earns much better money abroad and has now turned its European operations into profit. Weakness in Vodafone shares should not dissuade investors from buying again.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCA: Dec 95 914.01 Mar 96 1033.01

Mar 96 959.52 May 96 1033.01

May 96 959.52 Sep 96 1033.01

Sep 96 959.52 Dec 96 1033.01

Dec 96 959.52 Mar 97 1033.01

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THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

At the feet of the master

THE irrepressible — and some would say irascible — Sir Bernard Ingham has started a new business in how to deal with the media. Masterclass (not to be confused with foodie Loyd Grossman's *Masterchef* TV series) began last week. About 35 people, including civil servants, head teachers and local and health authority personnel, paid £200 each to spend the day with Lady Thatcher's former press secretary. My mole tells me Ingham is inexhaustible and on his feet nearly all day. His hot tip: "treat all press equally" — like he did at No 10.

Tied up

WHATEVER the fad for "dress down days", the tie and the scarf live on — and have their uses. The *Rack's 1995 Tie and Scarf Report* reveals "a bit of red suggests passion, a touch of green has peaceful and down-to-earth connotations, and yellow tie/silk scarf shows spontaneity and fun". When asked if MORI what was the most outrageous thing they had ever done with a tie/scarf, 2 per cent of respondents admitted they had used it to tie up their partner!

All change

BASIL POSTAN, head of European equity research at Credit Lyonnais Securities, is one person in London who is not boycotting French products this year. He has just seen, off stiff competition from rival City firms to get the noted media analyst Pierre-Yves Gauthier, 36, whose City career includes County NatWest and, latterly, Goldman Sachs, joins on Monday. Meanwhile, Kleinwort Benson has signed up Simon Samuels from the SNC side of Merrill Lynch, and Neil Baker, from Credit Lyonnais, who will be the founding analyst of its UK banks sector research team. Paul Hodges, ex-Capels and still on gardening leave, joins in January.



THOSE who hate the razzmatazz of Christmas office parties, and especially blowing up balloons, take cheer. Former bar owner Philip Lang, now head of his own Derby firm called Fantasia, has developed a self-sealing balloon. It has a seal inside the neck which is closed with a pinch. Clearly, there's an awful lot of puff in the UK balloon market — more than 550 million are sold annually.

Gold fever

The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street has surprisingly lifted one of her many veils. Terry Smeeton, head of the Bank's foreign exchange division, disclosed, at yesterday's Central Banking Conference organised by the World Gold Council, that for the first time ever, turnover figures in the London gold market. "When last measured 18 months ago, turnover through market-makers in London alone amounted to a daily 7.5 million ounces — equivalent to \$3 billion a day. And that's just for spot and forward business by 14 market makers," the Man from The Bank revealed.

COLIN CAMPBELL

C&W emerges as the big loser in boardroom battle

Eric Reguly looks at the damage caused by the leadership crisis at the company



Numbers up: James Ross, left, and Lord Young have resigned after a tussle over who should run the company

Boardroom power struggles are nothing new. No company is immune to them, especially ones with built-in time bombs like Cable and Wireless. C&W had an executive chairman, Lord Young, and a chief executive, James Ross. Both wanted to run the company and each claimed that their titles allowed them to do so. With no one clearly in charge, it was inevitable that they would eventually clash.

Yesterday, both were forced to resign because neither had the clear support of the board. One company official said: "There was an irreconcilable dispute about personalities."

The problem with this power struggle is that C&W, more so than Lord Young and Mr Ross, has emerged as the big loser. Their feud, which became public a few weeks ago, has, in fact, been going on for some time and has virtually paralysed the company.

Deals have been made, but several important ones, such as an opportunity to buy a stake in MCI, the US long-distance phone company, or link Mercury Communications, which is 80 per cent owned by C&W, with the cable companies, thereby giving it the broad access network it so badly needs, were studied then shelved.

Meanwhile, neither man was able to champion the "federation" strategy, which attempted to justify the company's collection of operations in some 50 countries and back the claim that "we are the only true global operator" in the business. C&W shares began to underperform the market while the perception grew that mismanagement was rife. C&W was squandering its reputation as a well established, well connected and truly large and diverse operator that could hold its own with the best European and American rivals.

The outcome of the battle between Lord Young and Mr Ross was crucial to C&W's future. If it went unresolved, or resulted in one or the other staying in place, C&W's image as a laggard in the fastest growing industry in the world would likely have solidified. As it is, the damage caused by the leadership crisis has been so bad that potential acquirers are thought to be circling the company.

One executive, who is close to both men, said: "There are really only two outcomes here. Either the company finds strong management who can make sense of the federation, or it gets taken over and broken up." The latter scenario looks plausible.

Many analysts and executives familiar with C&W think the federation strategy could work if it is given half a chance under enthusiastic management. C&W, they argue, need not be "global", in the way BT and AT&T want to be, in order to succeed. The approaches differ radically. BT and AT&T are essentially domestic operators that want to become global companies so they can offer seamless

voice, data and video service to multinational companies. To do so, they are forming overseas link-ups. BT, for example, bought a 20 per cent stake in MCI last year for \$4.3 billion. The two companies then launched a product called Concert, to which multinationals can subscribe to connect far-flung offices to a single network. AT&T, America's largest long-distance operator, leads a group called WorldPartners, whose members include European, Japanese and Singaporean carriers, with a similar service. Concert and WorldPartners offer one-stop shopping. A multinational can choose one carrier, and receive one bill, instead of having to deal with individual telecoms operators in various countries. Although C&W does offer a global product for multinationals, it is not really attacking the multinational market in the way that BT, MCI and AT&T are. There are, after all, only 2,500 multinationals of any size and competition to sign them up is intensifying. Instead, C&W wants to develop local services in markets around the world.

C&W buys or develops telecoms companies, transfers technology and management expertise to them, builds brand image and economies of scale. It is essentially the same approach adopted by companies such as Asea Brown Boveri, Unilever and Procter & Gamble. UBS Global Research noted: "The idea is to find quality businesses... C&W will then operate these businesses, taking start-ups to a more devel-

oped stage. At this point, the strategy is either to continue to operate the businesses, to trade them for a more focused portfolio, or to sell out."

Optus, the second carrier in Australia, is one example. Optus is 24.5 per cent owned by C&W and under its guidance has grown to the point that it can be taken public. The float, scheduled for next year, will value C&W's stake at about £400 million and, according to UBS, provide "further support" to the value of the federation.

C&W sources say that, contrary to many press reports, Lord Young and Mr Ross did not fundamentally disagree over the federation as a concept or a practical approach. The decision to buy a minority stake in Bezeq, the Israeli telecoms company, has been widely cited as an example of Lord Young, against Mr

Ross's wishes, "straying" from the core federation strategy. In fact, the Israeli opportunity was found by Lord Young, approved by both men, and negotiated by Mr Ross.

The sources said that the differences between the pair was more a matter of style than strategy. Lord Young liked to move quickly. Mr Ross was said to prefer the consensus approach. Over time, the differences grew to the point that they could not work together, with divorce the only solution. Unless the management issues are resolved — a worldwide search has been launched for a new chief executive — there is a good chance there will be nothing to manage. C&W appears ripe for take-

Potential acquirers are thought to be circling C&W

over. The City believes that the company looms in the crosshairs of BT, AT&T and possibly other groups with international ambitions and deep pockets. At the current share price, C&W is valued at £9.3 billion. The takeover premium could easily jack up the price to £12 billion or more.

C&W's prime attraction is its 57.5 per cent stake in Hong Kong Telecom, the dominant player in the world's fastest growing telecoms market. Hong Kong Telecom is the most valuable asset in C&W's portfolio: the market assigns little worth to the rest of the company. BT and AT&T would love to get their hands on C&W so they could tuck Hong Kong Telecom into their portfolios. AT&T, however, may not have the financial muscle. It is still digesting last year's purchase of McCaw Cellular Communications for \$12.6 billion. Craig McCaw, the former owner of the company, is thought to be interested in parts of C&W, particularly the mobile phone operations in Britain and Europe.

BT is in better position to buy C&W. But Ofcom, the telecoms regulator, would never allow it to own its main competitor and a takeover offer automatically would trigger an Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry. BT would have to unload Mercury quickly, and risk doing so at a fire-sale price. Another possible buyer is a consortium that includes America's "Baby Bells", the regional phone companies spun off from AT&T in 1983. In the end, C&W's share price, which has been rising on takeover speculation, will determine the company's future. The shares would climb under a new management that can capitalise on the federation strategy. If the new executive team cannot find its stride, C&W is sitting duck.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Evidence of recent housing market stability cannot be dismissed

From Mr John Stewart
Sir, Pennington (November 16) dismisses my suggestions that this year's serious downturn in the housing market appears to have reached its trough. The exit of a number of contractor/house builders from private housebuilding is not "a mass confirmation... that the market is going from bad to worse". It does confirm that the market has been very much worse this year than anyone had expected. This has forced companies involved in both contracting and private housebuilding, in many cases with relatively small private housing operations, to re-think their future strategy. One highly respected City analyst has been predicting this re-think for several years, long before this year's setback. Pennington too easily dismisses recent evidence of stability in the market as "flimsy

foundations for a stable house market". First, the evidence is not flimsy. Bank of England seasonally adjusted mortgage approval statistics, the best forward indicator for the market, have been broadly flat since April. The Halifax and Nationwide seasonally adjusted house price indices have been broadly flat over the last three to four months. Confidential survey work I undertake among most of the larger house builders shows net reservations of new homes have recently been level pegging with the same time last year after running below last year's levels for most of this year. City analysts confirm a little more optimism among house builders recently. Second, I did not say to the Southern Homebuilders Association that these were solid foundations for stability, nor that the market was about to pick up. On the contrary, without tax cuts, an interest-rate cut or unexpectedly strong growth in real earnings next year, the market may fail to recover.

And for the record, of the 70-odd house builders who attended the meeting, none left before I had finished speaking. I am sure the piece was intended as good knock-about copy. But I would expect a more informed and accurate approach when writing about such a serious political and economic issue.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN STEWART,
Managing Editor,
Housing Market Report,
59 Alverstone Avenue,
Wimbledon Park, SW19.

Life's bottom line

From Mr J. R. Thompson
Sir, May one who has contributed to Legal & General's £2.2 billion surplus be permitted a rueful, if not exactly sour, comment on their £160 million bonus payout? Two policies on my wife's life reached their maturity date at the end of October this year: one was with Scottish Widows and the other with L&G. The L&G premium was 1% higher, and the final cheque 9.7 per cent less, than the SW counterparts. Yours faithfully,
J. R. THOMPSON,
94 Stoughton Road,
Oadby, Leicestershire.

Watchdog vital if Revenue to extend powers

From Mr D. Goldberg, QC
Sir, An important consultative paper was published last week, which discussed whether the Inland Revenue should be given power to provide advance rulings as to the tax consequences of transactions. This is done in many other countries and it might be thought that to introduce such a service here would involve only a minor technical change in the law of no general concern. However, if the Revenue is given power to determine the tax consequences of proposed transactions in advance, they, rather than the legislature, are, effectively, given power to make law.

This year's Philip Hardman memorial lecture, which was reported in *The Times* (November 9), that the exercise of the Revenue's powers of care and management needed to be supervised by a new tribunal representing the constituency of taxpayers.

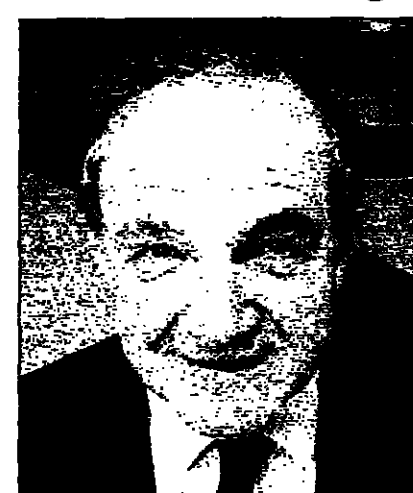
If the present proposals are to be implemented, the need for such a tribunal will be increased: if the Revenue is given new powers without a proper independent watchdog, tax law will not be adequately subjected to democratic controls. Yours faithfully,
DAVID GOLDBERG,
Grays Inn Chambers, WCI.

Primary obligation

From N. F. Durrant
Sir, Surely the first duty of the management and directors of any company is to the shareholders. Isn't this why public services were privatised? Yours truly,
N. F. DURRANT,
37 College Avenue,
Melton Mowbray,
Leicestershire.

Equal measures that would aid Scotch whisky industry

Lord Younger makes a pre-Budget plea for radical alcohol tax reform



Younger: time for flair and vision

In preparing this year's Budget, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, should be considering some bold fiscal initiatives to demonstrate that this is a Government that wants to stimulate industrial competitiveness, and is still capable of radical but rational thought.

The timing has never been better for him to address one of the current fiscal system's most blatant anomalies — an alcohol tax regime that discriminates against domestic industry while handing market advantage to imported competition. The current system of excise duty is chronically out of date. For more than 70 years, Britain has retained a discriminatory system that today taxes Scotch whisky, the home product, at almost double the rate of wine, the bulk of which is imported. In 1920, the reasons for this were clear. We had a war to pay for, a war during which the Government had sought to discourage spirits consumption among munitions workers. That zeal continued into peacetime and the tax rate on spirits was raised again, while nothing was levied on wine because, according to the then Chancellor, "no one drinks wine". But drinking and social trends have changed, and yet we cling to a tax system from another age. Surely, we need a modern system that reflects the social and economic realities of the 21st century.

For the past 150 years or so, Scotch has generated millions in revenue. Now, though, it seems that we have reached a watershed. It would appear that prices have been stretched as far as the market can bear, with the slightest changes in duty having a significant effect on revenue. Since March 1990, the Government has raised duty on spirits three times. Each time the industry has been

squeezed to the detriment of government revenue. When it froze the duty on spirits during 1993 and 1994, revenue recovered. When the Government was defeated over VAT on fuel last December, the Treasury had to find a way to recoup the lost revenue. Unfortunately, it kept at the traditional solution and slapped an extra 4 per cent on to spirits, which equated to an additional 26p on the price of a typical bottle of Scotch whisky.

It is now clear that revenues, once again, have slumped accordingly. Indeed, it would appear from current trends that the Treasury is unlikely, after all, to make up the shortfall through duty receipts. All indications are, therefore, that the tax on spirits has now reached the point of diminishing return. In its report on alcohol taxes and the single market published in April, the Institute for Fiscal Studies said: "We conclude that current excise duty rates on spirits could be at their revenue maximising level." In short, taxes and duty levied on Scotch whisky by the Government are now restricting the industry's growth and preventing it from realising its full potential. All Chancellors wish to be remembered for radical acts,

but they are frequently constrained by the Treasury view that an old tax is a good tax — at least from a narrow fiscal view. However, in the case of Scotch whisky, the old tax is not working and doesn't make any fiscal sense.

The solution that makes the most sense and that best reflects modern social and economic circumstances is to tax all alcoholic drinks equally, according to their alcohol content. A measure of Scotch whisky and a glass of wine both contain roughly the same amount of alcohol, yet under our current system, the Scotch is taxed at 29p the glass of wine at 17p.

Over the years, the Government has made strenuous efforts to support the Scotch whisky industry and to bolster its capacity to succeed in export markets. It has concluded Gatt agreements, passed the Scotch Whisky Act and battled a plethora of foreign trade barriers and regulations. Yet, ironically, our traditional system of alcohol taxation is undermining all this by hampering Scotch whisky in overseas markets. Britain is not alone in the European Union in levying higher taxes on spirits than on beer and wine. The EU is now reviewing its minimum rates of duty and the Chancellor has said that he wishes to secure a reduction in European discrimination against spirits. But surely his call for radical action will carry weight and credibility only if he matches it with equally radical action at home?

The Treasury should realise that Scotch whisky is a strategic manufacturing industry that makes a significant contribution to the UK's balance of trade. It is time the Treasury took a long, hard look at its alcohol tax policy and recognised it for what it is — an outdated system which, in today's competitive environment, is disadvantaging a vital British industry at home and abroad. The Budget gives the Chancellor the ideal opportunity to demonstrate flair and vision by creating an alcohol tax policy for the 21st century. Let him use it.

Lord Younger is chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland

To all Lonrho Shareholders LONRHO-IMPALA PLATINUM MERGER DOES IT ADD UP?

If you are a Lonrho shareholder, or a nominee holder for others, please look out for a letter from Mr R W Rowland, the second largest Shareholder in Lonrho, being sent to all Lonrho shareholders with interesting information about the Lonrho-Impala platinum merger. There are many points to consider before making out your proxy

Shareholders may consider the following difficulties:

- Low price for best asset
- Right to mine contested by Bafokeng tribe
- Superiority of Lonrho mine not reflected in shareholding split

Just three of the topics covered

You have bought Lonrho shares

Do not lose control of a great mine - cheap

THE LETTER IS ALSO APPEARING IN THE FINANCIAL TIMES
TODAY WEDNESDAY 22ND NOVEMBER

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995 Low Company Price High % Chg % PE									
11-Lincoln (A)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
12-Lincoln (B)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
13-Lincoln (C)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
14-Lincoln (D)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
15-Lincoln (E)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
16-Lincoln (F)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
17-Lincoln (G)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
18-Lincoln (H)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
19-Lincoln (I)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
20-Lincoln (J)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
21-Lincoln (K)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
22-Lincoln (L)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
23-Lincoln (M)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
24-Lincoln (N)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
25-Lincoln (O)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
26-Lincoln (P)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
27-Lincoln (Q)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
28-Lincoln (R)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
29-Lincoln (S)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
30-Lincoln (T)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
31-Lincoln (U)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
32-Lincoln (V)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
33-Lincoln (W)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
34-Lincoln (X)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
35-Lincoln (Y)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
36-Lincoln (Z)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
37-Lincoln (AA)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
38-Lincoln (AB)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
39-Lincoln (AC)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
40-Lincoln (AD)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
41-Lincoln (AE)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
42-Lincoln (AF)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
43-Lincoln (AG)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
44-Lincoln (AH)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
45-Lincoln (AI)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
46-Lincoln (AJ)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
47-Lincoln (AK)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
48-Lincoln (AL)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
49-Lincoln (AM)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
50-Lincoln (AN)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
51-Lincoln (AO)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
52-Lincoln (AP)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
53-Lincoln (AQ)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
54-Lincoln (AR)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
55-Lincoln (AS)	119	121	120	11					
56-Lincoln (AT)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
57-Lincoln (AU)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
58-Lincoln (AV)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
59-Lincoln (AW)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
60-Lincoln (AX)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
61-Lincoln (AY)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
62-Lincoln (AZ)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
63-Lincoln (BA)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
64-Lincoln (BB)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
65-Lincoln (BC)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
66-Lincoln (BD)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
67-Lincoln (BE)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
68-Lincoln (BF)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
69-Lincoln (BG)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
70-Lincoln (BH)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
71-Lincoln (BI)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
72-Lincoln (BJ)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
73-Lincoln (BK)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
74-Lincoln (BL)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
75-Lincoln (BM)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
76-Lincoln (BN)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
77-Lincoln (BO)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
78-Lincoln (BP)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
79-Lincoln (BQ)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
80-Lincoln (BR)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
81-Lincoln (BS)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
82-Lincoln (BT)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
83-Lincoln (BU)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
84-Lincoln (BV)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
85-Lincoln (BW)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
86-Lincoln (BX)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
87-Lincoln (BY)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
88-Lincoln (BZ)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
89-Lincoln (CA)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
90-Lincoln (CB)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
91-Lincoln (CC)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
92-Lincoln (CD)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
93-Lincoln (CE)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
94-Lincoln (CF)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
95-Lincoln (CG)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
96-Lincoln (CH)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
97-Lincoln (CI)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
98-Lincoln (CJ)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
99-Lincoln (CK)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
100-Lincoln (CL)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
101-Lincoln (CM)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
102-Lincoln (CN)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
103-Lincoln (CO)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
104-Lincoln (CP)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
105-Lincoln (CQ)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
106-Lincoln (CR)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
107-Lincoln (CS)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
108-Lincoln (CT)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
109-Lincoln (CU)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
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112-Lincoln (CX)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
113-Lincoln (CY)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
114-Lincoln (CZ)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
115-Lincoln (DA)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
116-Lincoln (DB)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
117-Lincoln (DC)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
118-Lincoln (DD)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
119-Lincoln (DE)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
120-Lincoln (DF)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
121-Lincoln (DG)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
122-Lincoln (DH)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
123-Lincoln (DI)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
124-Lincoln (DJ)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
125-Lincoln (DK)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
126-Lincoln (DL)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
127-Lincoln (DM)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
128-Lincoln (DN)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
129-Lincoln (DO)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
130-Lincoln (DP)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
131-Lincoln (DQ)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
132-Lincoln (DR)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
133-Lincoln (DS)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
134-Lincoln (DT)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
135-Lincoln (DU)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
136-Lincoln (DV)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
137-Lincoln (DW)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
138-Lincoln (DX)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
139-Lincoln (DY)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
140-Lincoln (DZ)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
141-Lincoln (EA)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
142-Lincoln (EB)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
143-Lincoln (EC)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
144-Lincoln (ED)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
145-Lincoln (EE)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
146-Lincoln (EF)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
147-Lincoln (EG)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
148-Lincoln (EH)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167	167	24
149-Lincoln (EI)	119	121	120	119	213	172	167</		

1985				1985			
Low Company		Price	%	Low Company		Price	%
156	112	Brinks Dalton	153	209	194	First Corp	210
157	113	Brinks Dalton	154	210	195	First Corp	211
158	114	Brinks Dalton	155	211	196	First Corp	212
159	115	Brinks Dalton	156	212	197	First Corp	213
160	116	Brinks Dalton	157	213	198	First Corp	214
161	117	Brinks Dalton	158	214	199	First Corp	215
162	118	Brinks Dalton	159	215	200	First Corp	216
163	119	Brinks Dalton	160	216	201	First Corp	217
164	120	Brinks Dalton	161	217	202	First Corp	218
165	121	Brinks Dalton	162	218	203	First Corp	219
166	122	Brinks Dalton	163	219	204	First Corp	220
167	123	Brinks Dalton	164	220	205	First Corp	221
168	124	Brinks Dalton	165	221	206	First Corp	222
169	125	Brinks Dalton	166	222	207	First Corp	223
170	126	Brinks Dalton	167	223	208	First Corp	224
171	127	Brinks Dalton	168	224	209	First Corp	225
172	128	Brinks Dalton	169	225	210	First Corp	226
173	129	Brinks Dalton	170	226	211	First Corp	227
174	130	Brinks Dalton	171	227	212	First Corp	228
175	131	Brinks Dalton	172	228	213	First Corp	229
176	132	Brinks Dalton	173	229	214	First Corp	230
177	133	Brinks Dalton	174	230	215	First Corp	231
178	134	Brinks Dalton	175	231	216	First Corp	232
179	135	Brinks Dalton	176	232	217	First Corp	233
180	136	Brinks Dalton	177	233	218	First Corp	234
181	137	Brinks Dalton	178	234	219	First Corp	235
182	138	Brinks Dalton	179	235	220	First Corp	236
183	139	Brinks Dalton	180	236	221	First Corp	237
184	140	Brinks Dalton	181	237	222	First Corp	238
185	141	Brinks Dalton	182	238	223	First Corp	239
186	142	Brinks Dalton	183	239	224	First Corp	240
187	143	Brinks Dalton	184	240	225	First Corp	241
188	144	Brinks Dalton	185	241	226	First Corp	242
189	145	Brinks Dalton	186	242	227	First Corp	243
190	146	Brinks Dalton	187	243	228	First Corp	244
191	147	Brinks Dalton	188	244	229	First Corp	245
192	148	Brinks Dalton	189	245	230	First Corp	246
193	149	Brinks Dalton	190	246	231	First Corp	247
194	150	Brinks Dalton	191	247	232	First Corp	248
195	151	Brinks Dalton	192	248	233	First Corp	249
196	152	Brinks Dalton	193	249	234	First Corp	250
197	153	Brinks Dalton	194	250	235	First Corp	251
198	154	Brinks Dalton	195	251	236	First Corp	252
199	155	Brinks Dalton	196	252	237	First Corp	253
200	156	Brinks Dalton	197	253	238	First Corp	254
201	157	Brinks Dalton	198	254	239	First Corp	255
202	158	Brinks Dalton	199	255	240	First Corp	256
203	159	Brinks Dalton	200	256	241	First Corp	257
204	160	Brinks Dalton	201	257	242	First Corp	258
205	161	Brinks Dalton	202	258	243	First Corp	259
206	162	Brinks Dalton	203	259	244	First Corp	260
207	163	Brinks Dalton	204	260	245	First Corp	261
208	164	Brinks Dalton	205	261	246	First Corp	262
209	165	Brinks Dalton	206	262	247	First Corp	263
210	166	Brinks Dalton	207	263	248	First Corp	264
211	167	Brinks Dalton	208	264	249	First Corp	265
212	168	Brinks Dalton	209		250	First Corp	

1985				1985			
Low Company		Price	%	Low Company		Price	%
209	194	First Corp	210	270	255	First Corp	271
210	195	First Corp	211	272	256	First Corp	272
211	196	First Corp	212	273	257	First Corp	273
212	197	First Corp	213	274	258	First Corp	274
213	198	First Corp	214	275	259	First Corp	275
214	199	First Corp	215	276	260	First Corp	276
215	200	First Corp	216	277	261	First Corp	277
216	201	First Corp	217	278	262	First Corp	278
217	202	First Corp	218	279	263	First Corp	279
218	203	First Corp	219	280	264	First Corp	280
219	204	First Corp	220	281	265	First Corp	281
220	205	First Corp	221	282	266	First Corp	282
221	206	First Corp	222	283	267	First Corp	283
222	207	First Corp	223	284	268	First Corp	284
223	208	First Corp	224	285	269	First Corp	285
224	209	First Corp	225	286	270	First Corp	286
225	210	First Corp	226	287	271	First Corp	287
226	211	First Corp	227	288	272	First Corp	288
227	212	First Corp	228	289	273	First Corp	289
228	213	First Corp	229	290	274	First Corp	290
229	214	First Corp	230	291	275	First Corp	291
230	215	First Corp	231	292	276	First Corp	292
231	216	First Corp	232	293	277	First Corp	293
232	217	First Corp	233	294	278	First Corp	294
233	218	First Corp	234	295	279	First Corp	295
234	219	First Corp	235	296	280	First Corp	296
235	220	First Corp	236	297	281	First Corp	297
236	221	First Corp	237	298	282	First Corp	298
237	222	First Corp	238	299	283	First Corp	299
238	223	First Corp	239	300	284	First Corp	300
239	224	First Corp	240	301	285	First Corp	301
240	225	First Corp	241	302	286	First Corp	302
241	226	First Corp	242	303	287	First Corp	303
242	227	First Corp	243	304	288	First Corp	304
243	228	First Corp	244	305	289	First Corp	305
244	229	First Corp	245	306	290	First Corp	306
245	230	First Corp	246	307	291	First Corp	307
246	231	First Corp	247	308	292	First Corp	308
247	232	First Corp	248	309	293	First Corp	309
248	233	First Corp	249	310	294	First Corp	310
249	234	First Corp	250	311	295	First Corp	311
250	235	First Corp	251	312	296	First Corp	312
251	236	First Corp	252	313	297	First Corp	313
252	237	First Corp	253	314	298	First Corp	314
253	238	First Corp	254	315	299	First Corp	315
254	239	First Corp	255	316	300	First Corp	316
255	240	First Corp	256	317	301	First Corp	317
256	241	First Corp	257	318	302	First Corp	318
257	242	First Corp	258	319	303	First Corp	319
258	243	First Corp	259	320	304	First Corp	320
259	244	First Corp	260	321	305	First Corp	321
260	245	First Corp	261	322	306	First Corp	322
261	246	First Corp	262	323	307	First Corp	323
262	247	First Corp	263	324	308	First Corp	324
263	248	First Corp	264	325	309	First Corp	325
264	249	First Corp	265	326	310	First Corp	326
265	250	First Corp	266	327	311	First Corp	327
266	251	First Corp	267	328	312	First Corp	328
267	252	First Corp	268	329	313	First Corp	329
268	253	First Corp	269	330	314	First Corp	330
269	254	First Corp	270	331	315	First Corp	331
270	255	First Corp	271	332	316	First Corp	332
271	256	First Corp	272	333	317	First Corp	333
272	257	First Corp	273	334	318	First Corp	334
273	258	First Corp	274	335	319	First Corp	335
274	259	First Corp	275	336	320	First Corp	336
275	260	First Corp	276	337	321	First Corp	337
276	261	First Corp	277	338	322	First Corp	338
277	262	First Corp	278	339	323	First Corp	339
278	263	First Corp	279	340	324	First Corp	340
279	264	First Corp	280	341	325	First Corp	341
280	265	First Corp	281	342	326	First Corp	342
281	266	First Corp	282	343	327	First Corp	343
282	267	First Corp	283	344	328	First Corp	344
283	268	First Corp	284	345	329	First Corp	345
284	269	First Corp	285	346	330	First Corp	346
285	270	First Corp	286	347	331	First Corp	347
286	271	First Corp	287	348	332	First Corp	348
287	272	First Corp	288	349	333	First Corp	349
288	273	First Corp	289	350	334	First Corp	350
289	274	First Corp	290	351	335	First Corp	351
290	275	First Corp	291	352	336	First Corp	352
291	276	First Corp	292	353	337	First Corp	353
292	277	First Corp	293	354	338	First Corp	354
293	278	First Corp	294	355	339	First Corp	355
294	279	First Corp	295	356	340	First Corp	356
295	280	First Corp	296	357	341	First Corp	357
296	281	First Corp	297	358	342	First Corp	358
297	282	First Corp	298	359	343	First Corp	359
298	283	First Corp	299	360	344	First Corp	360
299	284	First Corp	300	361	345	First Corp	361
300	285	First Corp	301	362	346	First Corp	362
301	286	First Corp	302	363	347	First Corp	363
302	287	First Corp	303	364	348	First Corp	364
303	288	First Corp	304	365	349	First Corp	365
304	289	First Corp	305	366	350	First Corp	366
305	290	First Corp	306	367	351	First Corp	367
306	291	First Corp	307	368	352	First Corp	368
307	292	First Corp	308	369	353	First Corp	369
308	293	First Corp	309	370	354	First Corp	370
309	294	First Corp	310	371	355	First Corp	371
310	295	First Corp	311	372	356	First Corp	372
311	296	First Corp	312	373	357	First Corp	373
312	297	First Corp	313	374	358	First Corp	374
313	298	First Corp	314	375	359	First Corp	375
314	299	First Corp	315	376	360	First Corp	376
315	300	First Corp	316	377	361	First Corp	377
316	301	First Corp	317	378	362	First Corp	378
317	302	First Corp	318	379	363	First Corp	379
318	303	First Corp	319	380	364	First Corp	380
319	304	First Corp	320	381	365	First Corp	381
320	305	First Corp	321	382	366	First Corp	382
321	306	First Corp	322	383	367	First Corp	383
322	307	First Corp	323	384	368	First Corp	384
323	308	First Corp	324	385	369	First Corp	385
324	309	First Corp	325	386	370	First Corp	386
325	310	First Corp	326	387	371	First Corp	387
326	311	First Corp	327	388	372	First Corp	388
327	312	First Corp	328	389	373	First Corp	389
328	313	First Corp	329	390	374	First Corp	390
329	314	First Corp	330	391	375	First Corp	391
330	315	First Corp	331	392	376	First Corp	392
331	316	First Corp	332	393	377	First Corp	393
332	317	First Corp	333	394	378	First Corp	394
333	318	First Corp	334	395	379	First Corp	395
334	319	First Corp	335	396	380	First Corp	396
335	320	First Corp	336	397	381	First Corp	397
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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First steps up the career ladder

Jennai Cox reports that the post of junior secretary can lead all the way to the top

Like gold dust and "rare commodity" are terms normally associated with the words currently being used by recruitment firms to describe good junior secretaries.

The prospect of accepting a low salary after spending two years at secretarial college — or three years studying for a degree — deters many first-time jobseekers from taking junior positions. Yet these roles often offer more scope for career progress than senior secretarial or even graduate recruitment positions.

Those taking secretarial courses view them as a route to greater things, says Julie Douglas, head of school administration at the Colchester Institute in north Essex.

Qualified secretaries find themselves in a buyers' market. Lisa Kelly, a senior consultant for Graduate Appointments in London, says: "For the well-qualified candidate it is not a question of whether they'll get a job, it's deciding which one."

Flexibility, though, is still important. Many of the people Ms Kelly sees have fixed ideas about where they want to

work candidates "with stars in their eyes" who say they want to work in "me-jas". "We try to persuade them to be more open-minded," she says. "The good candidates have done their homework and had some experience, which is the most important thing on their CV."

Secretaries in certain legal or accountancy offices may begin on a better salary (from £16,000 in London) but can quickly reach a glass ceiling. Working for a less generous wage with a different firm can reap longer-term rewards.

Young jobseekers should not concern themselves too much with money and should see their first job as an indication of what they want to do. It is not a binding career decision, Ms Kelly says.

Although harder to get into, PR and marketing firms — which in London recruit from about £12,000 — offer more room for promotion. "Some companies recognise that with today's technology, secretaries are as skilled as anyone else. The lines between the job roles are blurring," Ms Kelly says. "If the opportunity arises, hard-working support staff will be promoted."

Recruiting for Shandwick Consultants, an international PR firm in London, Caroline Saunders says that the best candidates will be attracted by the offer of opportunities. "Developing our staff saves on recruitment bills and gives continuity to our clients," she says. "It also creates incentive for newcomers. But they should be realistic about how long it takes."

Some companies fight shy of recruiting graduates, fearing that they will be too demanding. It can take up to two years before a support staff's efforts are rewarded, but it is usually worth the wait.

Hoping that she would not have to start as a secretary, Emma Simpson, 25, graduated from Nottingham Polytechnic in 1992 with a degree in geography and sociology. She then had to reconsider. She took a crash secretarial course, and financed herself through night school for a certificate in communications, marketing and advertising. Just before taking her final exams Ms Simpson was offered a job with Shandwick.



Emma Simpson, who has just been promoted by Shandwick: "It helps to start from the bottom — you know what's going on"

"Doing the course showed I had staying power and was serious about getting a foot in the door," she says. After a year as one of a team of secretaries working long hours, Ms Simpson was promoted last month to junior consultant, and received a pay rise with which she is very pleased. "It is good route up if you

work for someone who recognises your efforts," she says, "and it helps to start from the bottom because you know what's going on."

Graduates who have begun as secretaries and work alongside graduate trainees, have found themselves getting more hands-on experience and progressing faster, says Amanda Tucker, of Maine-Tucker Recruitment Consultants.

"I started as a secretary and now I'm a managing director," she says. "I still think it is the way to get on, especially for women."

companies, where they can also be very lonely. This is a common problem among applicants who take the first job offer that comes along. "Any-one applying for a junior position needs to go to a few interviews so they know what's around," she says.

Interviews remain as important as ever and recruitment consultants find that many people do not know what to expect. Appearance, hand-shaking and eye-contact have all to be gone through, says Jane Morgan, a consultant for Love & Tate Appointments, who tells candidates to prepare questions of their own.

"We tell them interviews are a two-way process and they're not there to be grilled. Companies often tell me how impressed they are when asked questions by applicants," she says.

Junior members of staff are a threat to no one and in an ideal position to learn about the business. Starting in a typing pool, Debra Allcock is now a manager for The Industrial Society, which campaigns for best practice at work. "The knowledge you gain from starting at the bottom could never be acquired going straight into senior level," she says. "Those who do are just not as good at their job."

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MUSIC 1

For St Cecilia's Day, *The Times* offers a small *divertissement* to stretch the musical intellect



MUSIC 2

London hears *Tannhäuser* for the first time in a decade, in a robust concert-version

THE TIMES
ARTS



MUSIC 3

A new work by Mark-Anthony Turnage receives its British premiere in Clerkenwell



TOMORROW

How does Pierce measure up to Sean? Read Geoff Brown's verdict on the new Bond

A notable puzzle for St Cecilia

November 22 is music's day. Pedants may point out that Cecilia, the 4th-century "virgin martyr", had absolutely no connection with music. Nevertheless, she has become the patron saint of musicians, and in the 17th century, this year, in fact, two rival efforts are taking place in London.

The Times is marking St Cecilia's Day with this musical puzzle, for which readers will need a reasonable memory for musical facts and legends (both ancient and modern), an elementary grasp of notation, a slice of lateral thinking, and a pencil. The first three correct entries drawn from the arts editor's trombone case next Tuesday morning win a £50 record token.

This is what you do. First, answer the 16 questions below. Some are a bit devious, but there are no anagrams or nasty hidden words. Then take the first letter of each answer. All 16 should produce letters ranging between A and G. Strung together in order, they almost make a 16-note tune.

Almost but not quite. Now you need rhythms and accidentals. You will find these round the outside of John Minnion's illustration. Simply follow the notes clockwise round the circumference. The only problem is: we aren't going to tell you where the sequence starts.

Finally, you will have a snatch of a very well-known ditty. We want to know the *exact* words linked to those 16 notes.

Send your answer to: St Cecilia Puzzle, Arts Page, *The Times*, Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Or fax to 0171-782 5748. Winners' names, along with answers and explanations, will be published next Wednesday.

- 1) Relative minors who became major in Tin Pan Alley. Who could ask for anything more?
- 2) There was some pandemonium on the letters page when he panicked on live TV.
- 3) Just for variation, he once twinkled his way towards a piano concerto.
- 4) He went on the record with a little help from Mary. Amazing, a first!
- 5) For a moving experience, serve this much-travelled liquid in triples with a dash of fake colouring.
- 6) Arise, Sir — aren't you planning an August vacation?
- 7) Their year of fame passed in a bit of a haze.
- 8) Slow enough to accompany a cinematic death scene, while the boy played on.
- 9) Sounds as if he was a miserable old Italian. But young Mozart was quick to get his number.
- 10) Strictly speaking, his title don't mean a thing. But remind me, what was it?
- 11) With a small change, this playwright turned something gay into a vile piece of work.
- 12) While discovering a whole new world, our animated lad introduced Oscar to Tim.
- 13) Their military seasoning was undoubtedly the flavour of '67.
- 14) Though cut off in his prime, the poor fellow managed to hit the high notes again this year.
- 15) Friends, it's a picturesque melody (but tricky to work out — Ed.)
- 16) This queen's dying words seem to have come true — at least for the composer in his big year.



Rare Wagner done to a succulent turn

Wagner's *Tannhäuser* has not fared too well here in recent years: Ken Russell's planned production for ENO seven years ago was cancelled — probably a mercy, all things considered — and proposed stagings elsewhere have failed to materialise.

Problems of overtime and casting do not instantly recommend the piece to the professional companies, and it has been left to such bold semi-professionals as New Sussex Opera to fill the gap (1990). This Chelsea Opera Group concert version gave Londoners the first chance to hear the piece for nearly a decade.

Now that a relaxed critical orthodoxy means we are no longer compelled to regard every quaver that Wagner wrote as holy writ, we may feel the loss is not too great. After the overture, the first act in either version (Paris was chosen here) is a virtual write-off, ill-constructed, limply composed. Things look up in the second, although the po-faced Minnesingers test our patience. Wagner realised this and made a cut, which the COG unkindly opened. The third act is pure gold, but it's a long, long wait...

Sunday's well-prepared concert reflected this pattern. The conductor Martyn Brabbins did all that is humanly possible to keep the earlier pages on the move, and from the song contest onwards led a forceful, persuasively paced account of the score. John Gibbons's COG chorus went at it with a will: some desirable weeding-out in the tenor section would probably be diplomatically too fraught to contemplate.

OPERA
Tannhäuser
Queen Elizabeth Hall

The evening was given an immense lift by the entry of Mary Lloyd-Davies as Elisabeth. Her German was clear and communicative, she gave us a spirited Prayer and a sensitive, properly musical phrasing. On this evidence her Isolde with ENO next year is eagerly awaited.

Andrew Greenan (Landgrave) was similarly clear of diction and ideally grave of tone, and Dianne Stafford did what she could with Venus in somewhat indeterminate language. David Barrell (Wolfgramm) started woefully, but found his sense of line in time for the song to the Evening Star.

The title role is a killer, but COG was lucky to have Richard Berkeley-Steele. He may command neither the weight nor the edge of a traditional Heldentenor but, more important, he is musical; he sang every note dead in tune, got through his mercilessly exposed high lines in the second act ensemble with honour unstained and, having sung the role in Germany, made every note and word tell in a vividly dramatic account of the Rome Narration. If one of our companies does want to take the plunge, they need look no further.

RODNEY MILNES

Gems among the pieces of eight

WHETHER for aesthetic or pragmatic reasons it would be indiscreet to ask, but a number of contemporary composers have written for the same combination of instruments as Schubert's Octet (string quintet plus clarinet, bassoon and horn). A whole programme of such octets brought this year's

Clerkenwell Music Series (artistic director Roger Steptoe) to a satisfying conclusion. The 1995 festival brought together music and musicians from England and Luxembourg, the latter represented

in Thursday's concert by Claude Lenners's *Found in a Bottle* (UK premiere). Inspired by an Edgar Allan Poe title, this piece has a suitably neurotic underflow, with clarinet trills and eerie, badlike squealing on strings.

The vanishing of the final notes into thin air was skilfully engineered, more so than the rather similar ending to Adrian Jack's *Zigzag* (world premiere). But this single-movement piece, commissioned by the Cambridge New Music Players, is an attractively presented one. The decorative motif of the title manifests itself in an undulating ostinato, quasi-tonal in idiom. Over this the clarinetist (the excellent Neyrre Ashworth) whistles in the Yiddish Klezmer style, a pungently invigorating effect.

Mark-Anthony Turnage's *This Silence* (UK premiere) has two movements, of which the first is called "Dance" and the second "Dirge". In fact, the former begins more in dirge mode, before generating a feverishly intense, powerfully sustained texture of accumulating tensions. The playing of the ensemble, under Paul Hoskins, was ideally taut.

With its substantial five movements, Robin Holloway's *Serenade in C*, dating

from 1978-79, belies the composer's description as a mere divertimento. Nor can one take at face value Holloway's protestation that his Romanticish flashbacks are lacking irony. Coming after the unsettling slurred pizzicato accompaniment to the bassoon solo, and the ensuing wrong-note harmonies (were they playful or sinister?), the Viennese coffee-house music at the end of the Andante is decidedly ambivalent. The sinuous lines and alluring sonorities of Richard Strauss are recalled in other movements too, while the second Menuetto has Holloway reinventing the Classical Viennese genre of the octet on his own terms.

Howard Ferguson's Octet, written in 1933, was specifically designed in this version as a companion piece for the Schubert (it was previously a septet, and before that a clarinet quintet). But for all its old-fashioned prewar harmonic idiom, it exploited the potential amplitude of the medium more comprehensively than any other work in the programme. With its highlighting and adroit dovetailing of solo contributions, it is a model of its kind.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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BBC2 is proud to announce the arrival of seven Steve Coogans. This Friday it's the turn of the salesman from hell: Gareth Cheeseman.



CHOICE 1

Rostropovich conducts the British debuts of two prodigies

VENUE: Tonight and tomorrow, Barbican

CHOICE 2

Clarke Peters's Five Guys Named Moe hits the road

VENUE: This week at the Palace, Manchester

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE 1

Sky and Sarah in Leicester: a new staging of Guys and Dolls comes to the Haymarket

THEATRE 2

Too much of Cliff, but the Royal Variety Performance at least offered some harmless fun

Frankly, Broadway does it better

Guys and Dolls
Leicester Haymarket

Do you wanna get married or shoot craps? That is quite a question for a guy devoted to organising illicit betting sessions on the tough side-streets of Broadway. Don't ya wanna settle down and bang the drum for the Salvation Army? Surely that does not sound too sweet either, especially for a high-stakes gambler with no time for broads before now. But this is *Guys and Dolls*, so love wins the day. Nathan Detroit and Sky Masterson and their gals, nightclub singer Adelaide and missionary Sarah Brown, of course tie the knot in the end.

It is certainly showtime at the Haymarket. Hot on the heels of Herman's *Mack and Mabel*, the director Paul Kerryson brings us Frank Loesser's better-loved classic. The orchestra, under the stage, is having a ball; throwing a jazzy blaze of trumpets and sparks flying from the hi-hat. On stage, the lights of Broadway glow on a scrim and the flashing vintage adverts feature cute-as-pie 1950s kids. The streets, with shut-up shops, are dirty and grey. That, however, is the show's only concession to grimness, except that some of the comedy falls flat, leaving the happy-ever-after ending hard to credit.

None of the cast dazzles. Still, Geraldine Fitzgerald's gawky Brooklyn Adelaide is amusingly miserable, poring over her home on unmarried women's psychosomatic stress trouble, singing about how "a pious can develop a cowd". David Leonard's Sky, lolling about in a sharp silver pin-striped, has a lupine look as he seduces Sarah. He shifts smoothly into smoochiness as Fiona Simmott's Sarah switches merrily from austerity to amorousness. However, Leonard can be too mannered, and the cartoonish physicality of other spivs and hustlers is hit and miss.



Nathan Detroit (Peter Forbes): a little nervous before his love song to Adelaide (Geraldine Fitzgerald)

The company does not quite have the Polish polish of big-time Broadway. They go great guns on energy but can be drowned by the orchestra and look uneasy when they feel a song coming on. Peter Forbes's bunt Detroit looks a shade nervous before launching into his love song. The chorus line of trilling-swapping sharks and fished-out cabaret performers almost has pizzazz, but

one dancing girl cannot do the high kicks. David Bolger's choreography is no great shakes while the set, a large black space, swallows some of the oomph of the spinning couples in Havana. Still, the cocktail waiter, risking all with his Hispanic wiggles, certainly attracted my attention.

KATE BASSETT

And elsewhere in town...

The Royal Variety Performance
Dominion

unfortunately, turned out not to be the monarch but the monarch's sickly mother. He was also joined by an array of celebrities (or as Cliff later put it, "a galaxy of stars") for a series of 15-ay, 15-ay jokes. These included Richard Branson, who was incomprehensible, Anthea Turner, who was very Anthea Turner, and Frank Bruno, who got the biggest cheer of the evening. What is six-foot-four, 17 stone, and red, white and blue? Why, Frank in his pyjamas. There was a dullish conjuror from Las Vegas, a couple

of decent mimics, a camp Aussie called Bob Downe who twirled about like Peter Pan on speed, Elaine Paige in fine voice and a comedian named Joe Pasquale whose thing is to look like a bouncer and talk like a wing with a mental age of five. There were also longish extracts from the two new musicals that have lately hit London, *Jolson* and *Oliver!*. In the latter, Caroline O'Connor displayed that blend of the impish and the brash that has won her excellent notices. I would have liked to have seen more of the Cirque du Soleil, with its mix of commedia crazies, knotted acrobats and muscle-men juggling each other, and of Riverdance, which juxtaposed tap of the tough Ameri-

can and prim Irish varieties. I would have liked just a little less of Sir Cliff. But what the Queen was really thinking, as her *dies miserabilis* moved towards its end, was anyone's guess. "We love our monarchy," said Hale and Pace to approving murmurs in the stalls. "So let us send Her Majesty our very warm support," they added, holding up what might have been a trussard, might have been a jacket, might have been a stick. The merriment turned to silly snickers. As that suggests, the Royal Variety Show is not everybody's idea of the way to celebrate a wedding anniversary; but the Queen, whose 48th it was, may have thought even Hale, even Pace better than watching her daughter-in-law spill her beans.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

LONDON

TURANDOT: Hopes are high for tonight's English National Opera performance. Puccini's unfinished opera is being sung in English for the first time within living memory by one of the national companies, and it is borrowing Christopher Alden's bang-up-to-the-minute production from the Welsh National Opera. The Vienna soprano Sopranos Linnéa and the British debut in the title role, Edmund Barton sang Gial, and Jessica Watson is the doomed slave-girl Liù. David Alton conducts. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8500). Tonight, 7.30pm, Sat, 6.30pm (5).

DOUBLE DEBUT: In the first of two concerts featuring the UK debut of 12-year-old stars in the making, Mstislav Rostropovich conducts Helen Huang and the London Symphony Orchestra for Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 10. The called Hen Ni Huang, who won the International Rostropovich Competition in Paris in 1994, performs Tchaikovsky's Rhapsody No 18. Barbican, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8500). Tonight, 7.30pm, Sat, 6.30pm (5).

IN DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS: Opening night for Shared Experience, back in town with O'Neill's passionate drama of father-son rivalry and forbidden love. Nanny Mead for director. Theatre, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-268 1000). Tonight, 7pm. Mon-Sat, 8pm. Mat, Dec 5, 5pm and Sat, 4pm. Unit Dec 16 (5).

FUNKY MONEY: Ray Cooney plays the man who made a bag of bank-notes in his latest farce. Charlie Dore, excellent as a sorely-misled taxi-driver. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-429 4001). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Mat, Thurs, 5pm and Sat, 5pm (5).

THE HOTHOUSE: Assembled by crises in a mysterious detention centre. Harold Pinter is marvellously funny, leading the strong cast in his one-act, long-buried play. Comedy, Farnham Street, SW1 (0171-268 1751). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Mat, Thurs, 5pm and Sat, 4pm (5).

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Dillane's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodson as the all-knowing inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society. Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-404 5062). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm. Mat, Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm (5).

NEW RELEASES

GOLDENEYE: To be reviewed on Thursday. Octopus Leisure (01426-915 963).

LA HAINE (15): Powerful, angry drama about volatile youths on a Parisian estate. Director, Mathieu Kassovitz. Galleries (0171-727 4043). MGM Film (0171-730 2638).

INSTITUTE BENEFICIAL: Slow, enigmatic drama in a school for the blind. Directed by Robert Dillane. MGM Film (0171-730 2638).

THE SCARLET LETTER (15): Sex and guilt in 17th-century Massachusetts. A long way from Hawthorne's novel. With Demi Moore, Gary Oldman and Robert Dillane. Director, Roland Joffe. MGM Film (0171-730 2638).

KASPAR HAUSER (18): Peter Sars's absorbing low-key account of the German youth who became a pawn in 19th-century Germany. Octopus Leisure (01426-915 963).

THE SCARLET LETTER (15): Sex and guilt in 17th-century Massachusetts. A long way from Hawthorne's novel. With Demi Moore, Gary Oldman and Robert Dillane. Director, Roland Joffe. MGM Film (0171-730 2638).

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

LIVERPOOL: Peter Donohoe joins the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra for tonight's world premiere of the young Sir Graham Fitkin's Piano Concerto. The work is sandwiched in between the more traditional Mozart and Prokofiev. Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street (0151-709 3789). Tonight, 7.30pm (5).

MANCHESTER: Clarke Peters's *Five Guys Named Moe*, a night of fun you won't soon forget. Sick, award-winning choreography and songs that just don't quit, back on a UK tour. Palace, Oxford Street (0161-242 2503). Tonight, Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm and 8.45pm (5).

CARDIFF: Sheridan's delicious comedy of manners, *The School for Scandal*, is played by a starry cast, including Don Bryn, Frank Middlemass, Christine Ebersole and Mandy Patinkin. Richard Cottle directs, on tour from Chichester. Theatre, St David's (01222-878 889). Tonight, Sat, 7.30pm. Mat, Thurs and Sat, 3pm (5).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, showing only
■ Some seats available
■ Seats at all prices

JOJOLIN: The highs and lows of the singer with a monster ego. Brian Cullery tells out the songs enjoyably and Saly Ann Triplett is an impressive Ruby Keeler. Playhouse, Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-584 1317). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Mat, Wed and Sat, 3pm (5).

RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB: Jonathan Harvey's hilarious play about emotional and homosexual turmoil in a group of twenty-somethings. Comedy, Farnham Street, SW1 (0171-268 1751). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Mat, Thurs, 5pm and Sat, 4pm (5).

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CINEMA GUIDE

Good film in London and (where indicated with the symbol ●) on release across the country

TOY STORY (PG): Can kid boy Woody save his dad's auto parts hobby? Transcends low-budget comedy with Chris Farley and David Spade; director, Peter Dinklage. UCI Whiteleys (0171-437 3332).

A WALK IN THE CLOUDS (PG): Viscious 1940s romance with Robert De Niro as a returning soldier who finds a new life in California's vineyards. Director, Alfonso Arau. UCI Whiteleys (0171-437 3332).

THE SCARLET LETTER (15): Sex and guilt in 17th-century Massachusetts. A long way from Hawthorne's novel. With Demi Moore, Gary Oldman and Robert Dillane. Director, Roland Joffe. MGM Film (0171-730 2638).

KASPAR HAUSER (18): Peter Sars's absorbing low-key account of the German youth who became a pawn in 19th-century Germany. Octopus Leisure (01426-915 963).

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PANTO

From the comely
Linda Lusardi,
playing *Dick
Whittington*
at the Bradford
Alhambra...



PANTO

... to the
appearance by
Robert Powell
in *Canterbury's
Jack and the
Beanstalk*...

THE TIMES
ARTS

PANTO

And from Leslie
Grantham, who
prepares to hook
the punters for
Peter Pan
in Southend...



PANTO

... to Linda
Nolan in
Glasgow's Aladdin:
The Times Theatre
Club's list of top
Christmas shows

The Indispensable Pantomime Guide

LONDON

CENTRAL
Almeida Theatre (0171-359 4404)
The Tower
Dec 7-Feb 3
Barbican Theatre (0171-638 8991)
A Christmas Carol
Royal Shakespeare Company
Dec 1-Jan 13
BAC (0171-223 2223)
Arabian Nights/Sheherazade
Dec 5-Jan 7
Cuckoo
Dec 12-Jan 7
Cockayne Theatre (0171-242 7040)
Robin Hood
Jan 7-12
Hackney Empire (0181-985 2424)
Cinderella
Dec 12-Jan 7
Levensham Theatre (0181-690 0002)
Cinderella
Dec 18-Jan 14
Cheryl Baker
Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith
(0181-741 2311)
Hansel and Gretel
Dec 7-Jan 6
Mermaid Theatre (0171-236 2211)
Treasure Island
Nov 30-Jan 13
Old Vic (0171-228 6655)
The Wind in the Willows
Nov 25-Feb 24
Royal Festival Hall
(0171-960 4242)
The Nutcracker
Dec 18-Jan 6
Royal Opera House
(0171-304 4000)
Les Patineurs/
Tales of Beatrix Potter/
Peter and the Wolf
Dec 21-Jan 6
Sadler's Wells
(0171-763 6000)
London City Ballet's Cinderella
Dec 16-Jan 6
Theatre Royal Stratford East
(0181-534 0310)
Jack and the Beanstalk
Dec 2-Jan 28
Unicorn Theatre (0171-836 2132)
The Pied Piper
Nov 18-Jan 21
Young Vic Theatre (0171-928 6363)
The Jungle Book
Nov 16-Jan 27
BARNET
Old Bull Arts Centre
(0181-449 0048)
Snow Queen
Dec 21-Jan 13
BRENTFORD
Watermans Arts Centre
(0181-568 1776)
Humpty Dumpty
Nov 30-Jan 6
BROMLEY
Churchill Theatre (0181-460 6677)
Aladdin
Dec 14-Jan 20
Gloria Hunniford, Bonnie
Langford
CROYDON
Ashcroft Theatre (0181-688 9201)
Peter Pan
Dec 8-Jan 14
HAYES
Beck Theatre (0181-561 8371)
Dick Whittington
Dec 9-Jan 14
HOUNSLOW
Paul Robeson Theatre
(0181-571 6969)
The Snow Queen
Dec 13-Jan 6
ILFORD
Kenneth More Theatre
(0181-553 4466)
Dick Whittington
Dec 14-Feb 3
RICHMOND
Orange Tree (0181-940 3633)
The Simpleton of the
Unexpected Isles
Nov 30-Jan 27
Richmond Theatre
(0181-940 0088)
Cinderella
Dec 15-Jan 27
Lionel Blair, Leslie Ash
WIMBLEDON
Pella Children's Theatre
(0181-543 4888)
The Starlight Cloak
Nov 18-Feb 3
Wimbledon Theatre
(0181-540 0362)
Aladdin
Dec 15-Jan 28

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE
Tameside Hippodrome
(0161-306 3223)
Beauty and the Beast
Dec 15-Jan 14
AYLESBURY
Limekiln Theatre (01296 431272)
Dick Whittington
Dec 21-Jan 1
BAGNOR, NEWBURY
Watermill Theatre (01635 46044)
Charlotte's Web
Dec 8-Jan 13
BARNSTAPLE
Queen's Theatre (01271 24242)
Puss in Boots
Dec 22-Jan 14
BARROW-IN-FURNESS
Forum 28 (01229 820000)
Cinderella
Dec 22-Jan 13
BASTINGSTOKE
Haymarket Theatre
(01256 465564)
Dick Whittington
Dec 22-Jan 6

BATH
Theatre Royal (01225 448844)
Sleeping Beauty
Dec 21-Jan 28
BEXHILL-ON-SEA
De La Warr Pavilion
(01424 212022)
Jack and the Beanstalk
Dec 21-Jan 4
BIRMINGHAM
Forum (01642 552663)
Puss in Boots
Dec 14-Jan 6
BIRMINGHAM
Alexandra Theatre (0121-643 1231)
Scrooge/
Great Expectations
Nov 15-Feb 17
Hippodrome (0121-622 7486)
Cinderella
Dec 21-Feb 17
Midland Arts Centre
(0121-440 3838)
Arabian Nights
Nov 16-Feb 3
Old Reg Theatre (0121-605 4444)
The Borrowers
Dec 13-Jan 27
BLACKBURN
King George's Hall (01254 582852)
Robin Hood
Dec 26-Jan 14
Grand Theatre (01253 28372)
Snow White
Dec 15-Jan 13
Pleasure Beach Arena
(01253 341707)
Fantasy on Ice 95
Dec 23-Jan 1
BLANDFORD
Bryanston Arts Centre
(01258 456533)
The Jungle Book
Dec 1-9
BOGNOR REGIS
Regis Centre (01243 865551)
Aladdin
Dec 14-Jan 6
BOXTON
Octagon Theatre (01204 520661)
The Nativity/
Tales From The Magic Story Bowl
Nov 23-Dec 23
Albert Halls (01204 364333)
Aladdin
Dec 2-Jan 6
BOXTON
Bleakfarms Arts Centre
(01205 363108)
Jack and the Beanstalk
Dec 14-Jan 6
BOURNEMOUTH
Pavilion Theatre (01202 297297)
Cinderella
Dec 14-Jan 21
BRENTFORD
Albion Theatre (01274 752000)
Dick Whittington
Dec 22-Feb 18
Matthew Kelly, Linda Lusardi
BRIGHTON
Gardner Arts Centre
(01273 685661)
The Jungle Book
Dec 15-Jan 6
Theatre Royal (01273 328488)
Cinderella
Dec 14-Jan 13
BRISTOL
Hippodrome (0117-929 9444)
Scrooge - the Musical
Dec 20-Feb 24
Old Vic (0117-987 7877)
Dick Whittington/
Moll Flanders
Dec 8-Jan 27
BROADSTAIRS
Pavilion (01843 865726)
Snow White
Dec 22-Jan 2
BURY
Met Arts Centre (0161 7612216)
Beauty and the Beast
Nov 23-Jan 13
BURY ST EDMUNDS
Theatre Royal (01284 769505)
Sleeping Beauty
Dec 15-Jan 13
BUXTON
Opera House (01298 72190)
Dick Whittington
Dec 14-31
CAMBERLEY
Arts Link (01276 23738)
Snow White
Dec 16-Jan 6
CAMBRIDGE
Corn Exchange (01223 357851)
Aladdin
Dec 16-Jan 14
CANTERBURY
Marlowe Theatre (01227 787187)
Jack and the Beanstalk
Dec 7-Jan 7
Robert Powell
CARLISLE
Sands Centre (01228 25222)
Aladdin
Dec 10-30
CHATHAM
Central Theatre (01634 403869)
Cinderella
Dec 14-Jan 4
CHELTENHAM
Everyman Theatre (01242 575757)
Toad of Toad Hall
Dec 21-Jan 1
CHESTER
Gateway Theatre (01244 340392)
Once Upon A Time
Dec 2-Jan 13
CHESTERFIELD
Pomegranate Theatre
(01246 232801)
Mermaid
Dec 9-Jan 6
CLIPPINGFORD
The Theatre (01608 642358)
Little Red Riding Hood
Dec 7-Jan 13
COVENTRY
Belgrade Theatre (01203 553855)
Dick Whittington
Dec 5-Jan 20

Warwick Arts Centre
(01203 524524)
Hansel & Gretel
Dec 1-Jan 6
CRAWLEY
The Hawth (01293 553636)
Snow White
Dec 13-Jan 7
CREWE
Lyceum (01270 537333)
Cinderella
Dec 9-Jan 14
DARLINGTON
Civic Theatre (01325 486555)
Cinderella
Dec 9-Jan 27
Paul Shane
DARTFORD
The Orchard (01322 220000)
Cinderella
Dec 14-Jan 20
Barbara Windsor, Mark Curry
DERBY
Playhouse (01332 363275)
Dick Whittington and his Cat
Dec 9-Jan 27
DUDLEY
Netherion Arts Centre
(01894 250335)
The Nutcracker
Dec 20-22
EASTBOURNE
Devonshire Park Theatre
(01323 412000)
Aladdin
Dec 21-Jan 14
EXETER
Northcott Theatre (01392 548553)
Peter Pan
Dec 13-Jan 20
FAREHAM
Fernham Hall (01329 824868)
Beauty and the Beast
Dec 19-Jan 2
FROME
Merlin Theatre (01373 465949)
Jack and the Giant
Dec 21-24
GRAVESEND
The Woodville Halls
(01474 337459)
Sleeping Beauty
Dec 16-Jan 6
Craig Douglas
GRIMSBY
Caxton Theatre & Arts Centre
(01472 342422)
Snow White
Dec 15-Jan 6
Freddie Garrity
GUILDFORD
Civic Hall (01483 444855)
Aladdin
Dec 18-Jan 6
HALIFAX
Victoria Theatre (01422 351158)
Aladdin
Dec 21-Jan 7
HARROGATE
Harrogate Theatre (01423 502116)
Sleeping Beauty
Dec 15-Jan 13
HASTINGS
White Rock Theatre
(01424 781000)
Dick Whittington
Dec 16-Jan 7
HAYWARDS HEATH
Platform Theatre (01444 456111)
Alice Through the Looking Glass/
Rumpelstiltskin
Dec 16-30
HEMEL Hempstead
The Adventures of Tom Thumb
Dec 13-30
MALVERN
Festival Theatre (01684 892277)
Robinson Crusoe
Dec 26-Jan 6
MANCHESTER
Contact (0161-274 4400)
Hansel & Gretel
Dec 13-Jan 15
Forum Theatre (0161-437 9663)
The BFG
Nov 22-Jan 20
Library Theatre (0161-236 7110)
A Christmas Carol
Nov 30-Jan 20
Opera House (0161-236 9922)
Pickle - the Musical
Dec 11-Feb 3
Harry Secombe, Ruth Madoc
Palace Theatre (0161-242 2503)
Aladdin
Dec 15-Feb 17
Royal Exchange Theatre
Dec 11-Jan 14
Animal Crackers
Dec 21-Feb 3
MANFIELD
Palace Theatre (01623 663085)
Snow White
Dec 11-Jan 14
MARGATE
Tom Thumb Theatre
(01843 221791)
Cinderella
Dec 18-30
MIDDLESBROUGH
Little Theatre (01643-815181)
Aladdin
Dec 7-Jan 7
NEWBURY
Corn Exchange (01635 527373)
Dick Whittington
Dec 12-30
NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME
New Victoria Theatre
(01672 717623)
Hansel & Gretel
Nov 25-Jan 27
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE
Playhouse (0191-220 551)
The Sleeping Beauty
Nov 25-Jan 6
Theatre Royal (0191-232 2061)
Robinson Crusoe
Dec 8-Jan 13
NORTHAMPTON
Derngate Theatre (01604 24811)
Cinderella
Dec 20-Jan 28



Kriss Akabusi, Olympic medal-winner turned panto star at the New Theatre, Woking

LUTON
St George's Theatre (01582 21628)
The Adventures of Tom Thumb
Dec 13-30
MALVERN
Festival Theatre (01684 892277)
Robinson Crusoe
Dec 26-Jan 6
MANCHESTER
Contact (0161-274 4400)
Hansel & Gretel
Dec 13-Jan 15
Forum Theatre (0161-437 9663)
The BFG
Nov 22-Jan 20
Library Theatre (0161-236 7110)
A Christmas Carol
Nov 30-Jan 20
Opera House (0161-236 9922)
Pickle - the Musical
Dec 11-Feb 3
Harry Secombe, Ruth Madoc
Palace Theatre (0161-242 2503)
Aladdin
Dec 15-Feb 17
Royal Exchange Theatre
Dec 11-Jan 14
Animal Crackers
Dec 21-Feb 3
MANFIELD
Palace Theatre (01623 663085)
Snow White
Dec 11-Jan 14
MARGATE
Tom Thumb Theatre
(01843 221791)
Cinderella
Dec 18-30
MIDDLESBROUGH
Little Theatre (01643-815181)
Aladdin
Dec 7-Jan 7
NEWBURY
Corn Exchange (01635 527373)
Dick Whittington
Dec 12-30
NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME
New Victoria Theatre
(01672 717623)
Hansel & Gretel
Nov 25-Jan 27
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE
Playhouse (0191-220 551)
The Sleeping Beauty
Nov 25-Jan 6
Theatre Royal (0191-232 2061)
Robinson Crusoe
Dec 8-Jan 13
NORTHAMPTON
Derngate Theatre (01604 24811)
Cinderella
Dec 20-Jan 28

Royal Theatre (01604 32533)
Aladdin
Dec 11-Jan 27
NORWICH
Theatre Royal (01603 630000)
Peter Pan
Dec 18-Jan 27
NOTTINGHAM
Playhouse (0115-941 9419)
Mother Goose
Dec 2-Jan 20
Royal Centre (0115-948 2626)
Royal Concert Hall
Beauty & the Beast on Ice
Dec 26-30
OLDHAM
Coliseum (0161-624 2829)
Dick Whittington/
After Agincourt
Dec 1-Jan 13
Arts Centre (0161-624 8013)
Hansel & Gretel
Nov 30-Dec 9
Mother Goose
Dec 20-Jan 6
OXFORD
Playhouse (01865 799600)
Mother Goose
Dec 8-Jan 14
SHREWSBURY
Music Hall (01743 350763)
Dick Whittington
Dec 12-Jan 6
SKEGNESS
Embassy Centre (01754 768333)
Cinderella
Dec 9-Jan 6
RAMSGATE
Granville Theatre (01843 591750)
Dick Whittington
Dec 26-Jan 3
Britt Eklund
READING
Hexagon (01734 591591)
Cinderella
Dec 13-Jan 13
REDHILL
Harlequin Theatre (01737 765547)
Snow White
Dec 16-Jan 14
Rula Lenska

RICHMOND
Georgian Theatre (01748 523021)
The Time Wizard
Dec 27-28
RICKMANSWORTH
Watersmeet (01923 771542)
Alice in Wonderland
Dec 14-30
ROTHERHAM
Civic Theatre (01709 823640)
Dick Whittington
Dec 15-Feb 11
SALISBURY
Playhouse (01723 320333)
Cinderella
Dec 9-Jan 13
SCARBOROUGH
Funaria Theatre (01723 365789)
Sleeping Beauty
Dec 20-24
Spa Theatre (01723 373333)
Jack and the Beanstalk
Dec 18-30
Stephen Joseph Theatre
(01723 370541)
Grimm Tales
Nov 29-Dec 30
SCUNTHORPE
Playwright Theatre (01724 840888)
Beauty and the Beast
Dec 9-Jan 7
SEVENOAKS
Sag Theatre (01732 450175)
Fantastic Mr Fox
Dec 19-Jan 2
SHEFFIELD
Sheffield Theatres (0114-276 9922)
Crescendo
The Wind in the Willows
Dec 14-Jan 20
Lyceum
Babes in the Wood
Dec 21-Jan 28
SHREWSBURY
Music Hall (01743 350763)
Dick Whittington
Dec 12-Jan 6
SKEGNESS
Embassy Centre (01754 768333)
Cinderella
Dec 9-Jan 6
RAMSGATE
Granville Theatre (01843 591750)
Dick Whittington
Dec 26-Jan 3
Britt Eklund
READING
Hexagon (01734 591591)
Cinderella
Dec 13-Jan 13
REDHILL
Harlequin Theatre (01737 765547)
Snow White
Dec 16-Jan 14
Rula Lenska

Southend-on-Sea
Theatre Royal (01702 351138)
Peter Pan
Dec 13-Jan 13
Leslie Grantham
SOUTHPORT
Arts Centre (01704 540011)
Snow White
Jan 4-20
Southport Theatre (01704 540404)
Aladdin
Dec 22-Jan 21
SOUTH SHIELDS
Customs House (0191-454 1234)
Dick Whittington
Dec 15-Jan 7
STOCKPORT
Davenport Theatre (0161-483 3801)
Cinderella
Dec 15-Jan 13
SOUTHSEA
King's Theatre (01705 828282)
Cinderella
Dec 14-Jan 13
SUNDERLAND
Empire Theatre (0191-514 2517)
Sleeping Beauty
Dec 15-Jan 13
Roxbury Theatre (0191-567 2669)
Aladdin
Dec 8-16
SWINDON
Wyvern Theatre (01793 524481)
Aladdin
Dec 22-Jan 27
Arts Centre (01793 614837)
Sleeping Beauty
Dec 9-14
TORQUAY
Princess Theatre (01803 290290)
Cinderella
Dec 22-Jan 13
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Assembly Hall (01892 520272)
Cinderella
Dec 18-Jan 6
WAKEFIELD
Theatre Royal & Opera House
(01924 366556)
Sleeping Beauty
Dec 5-Jan 6
WELLINGBOROUGH
Castle (01937 270007)
Christmas Cat & the
Pudding Pirates
Dec 7-30
WESTCLIFF
Palace Theatre (01702 342564)
Alice in Wonderland
Dec 2-Jan 6
WEYMOUTH
Pavilion (01905 783225)
Follow the Star!
Aladdin
Dec 26-Jan 7
WHITLEY BAY
Playhouse (0191-252 3505)
The Snow Queen
Dec 4-9
WHITBY
Pavilion Theatre (01947 604855)
Cinderella
Jan 15-21
WINCHESTER
Theatre Royal (01962 843434)
Cinderella
Dec 14-Jan 6
WINDSOR
Theatre Royal (01753 985388)
Dick Whittington
Dec 15-Jan 13
WOKING
New Victoria Theatre
(01483 361144)
Dick Whittington
Dec 21-Feb 4
Kriss Akabusi, Lesley Joseph
WOLVERHAMPTON
Grand Theatre (01902 29212)
Goldilocks and the Three Bears
Dec 15-Feb 11
WORCESTER
Swan Theatre (01905 27322)
The Wizard of Oz
Dec 1-Jan 6
WORTHING
Connaught Theatre (01903 235333)
Jack and the Beanstalk
Dec 15-Jan 14
Pavilion Theatre (01903 820500)
Alice in Wonderland
Dec 15-31
YEovil
Octagon Theatre (01935 22884)
Dick Whittington
Dec 16-Jan 6
YORK
Grand Opera House
(01904 671818)
Dick Whittington
Dec 18-Jan 14
Paul Daniels
Theatre Royal (01904 623568)
Cinderella
Dec 12-Jan 27

ABERYSTWYTH
Arts Centre (01970 623232)
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
Jan 5-20
BANGOR
Theatre Gwynedd (01248 357708)
Aladdin
Jan 5-13
CARDIFF
New Theatre (01222 878889)
Dick Whittington
Dec 16-Feb 3
Britt Eklund
HARLECH
Theatre Arundwy (01766 780667)
Sothach A Sgylfath
Jan 11-13
LLANDUDNO
North Wales Theatre (01492 872000)
Jack and the Beanstalk
Dec 14-Jan 7

MILFORD HAVEN
Torre Theatre (01646 695267)
The Amazing Mr Toad
Dec 23-Jan 6
MOLD
Theatr Cwyd (01252 755114)
Gulliver's Travels
Dec 1-Jan 20
PONTYPRIDD
Muni Arts Centre (01443 485934)
Billy Bazo Meets Mother Goose
Dec 27-Jan 5
RHYL
New Pavilion (01745 330000)
Aladdin
Dec 13-Jan 6
SWANSEA
Grand Theatre (01792 475715)
Jack and the Beanstalk
Dec 14-Feb 4

NORTHERN IRELAND

BELFAST
Civic Arts Theatre (01232 324936)
Beauty and the Beast
Nov 30-Jan 20
Grand Opera House
(01232 341919)
Aladdin
Dec 8-Jan 20
Rod Hull & Emu, Lorraine Chase
Lyric Players Theatre
(01232 381081)
The Big Friendly Giant
Season's Greetings
Dec 13-Jan 6
COLERAINE
Riverside Theatre (01245 51388)
Who Stole Christmas
Dec 2-21
LONDONDERRY
Rialto (01954 260516)
Beauty and the Beast
Dec 6-17

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN
Arts Centre (01224 635008)
Cinderella
Dec 6-23
His Majesty's (01224 641122)
Robinson Crusoe
Dec 8-Jan 6
The Lemon Tree (01224 642230)
Beauty and the Beast
Nov 29-Dec 2
AYR
Gaiety Theatre (01292 611222)
Cinderella
Dec 1-Jan 20
CUMBERNAULD
Cumbernauld Theatre
(01236 732887)
Rumpelstiltskin
Nov 23-Dec 23
DUMFRIES
Theatre Royal (01387 254209)
Dick Whittington
Dec 4-16
DUNDEE
Repertory Theatre (01382 223530)
Cinderella
Dec 1-Jan 13
EDINBURGH
Reindeer Theatre (0131-529 6000)
The Hot Ice Show
Dec 19-31
King's Theatre (0131-220 4349)
Cinderella
Dec 5-Jan 27
Royal Lyceum (0131-229 9697)
Marlin The Magnificent
Dec 8-Jan 6
GLASGOW
Citizens Theatre (0141-429 0022)
Pinocchio
Nov 28-Jan 13
King's Theatre (0141-227 5511)
Babes In The Wood
Dec 15-31
Pavilion (0141-332 1846)
Aladdin
Nov 30-Jan 27
The Kranksies, Linda Nolan
Theatre Royal (0141-332 9000)
Peter Pan
Dec 12-Dec 30
GLENROTHES
Roths Halls (01992 611101)
Aladdin
Dec 16-23
GREENOCK
Arts Guild (01475 723038)
Dick Whittington
Dec 9-23
INVERNESS
Eden Court Theatre (0463 221718)
Jack & the Beanstalk
Dec 7-30
IRVINE
Magnum Theatre (01294 278381)
Babes In The Wood
Dec 4-23
KILMARNOCK
Palace Theatre (01563 525690)
Sleeping Beauty
Nov 20-Jan 13
MOTHERWELL
Civic Theatre (01698 267515)
Weans in the Woods
Dec 4-Jan 6
PAISLEY
Arts Centre (0141-887 1010)
Babes In The Magic Woods
Dec 1-Jan 6
PERTH
Perth Theatre (01738 621031)
Cinderella
Dec 13-Jan 13
ST ANDREWS
Byre Theatre (01334 476288)
The Ideal Gnome Expedition
Dec 7-30
STIRLING
MacRobert Arts Centre
(01786 461081)
The Snow Queen
Dec 8-Jan 6

A SONG FOR BRITTEN.



BENJAMIN BRITTEN BIRTHDAY CONCERT. LIVE FROM THE WIGMORE HALL TONIGHT ON RADIO 3 AT 8.00PM.



More people are using their savings to pay for residential care. Rachel Kelly on what the Chancellor could do

Will the Budget help the elderly?

The elderly are awaiting new Tuesday's Budget with special interest. It is widely hoped that the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will announce that the Government will pay nursing fees, but not accommodation costs, for elderly people living in private residential nursing homes.

Mr Clarke may also double the £8,000 savings threshold that cuts off state help with nursing fees. Homes might even be taken out of the asset calculations.

His moves are an attempt to save off mounting criticism that middle-class pensioners are being forced to sell their homes to pay for care. Since the £8,000 figure can include the value of the family home, thousands of people have found themselves cut off from state help and are having to use their savings.

Such issues might seem unimportant. Age Concern calculates that only one in 20 people over 65 currently need some form of long-term care.

Yet fears about paying for long-term nursing care abound, and are best understood by talking to those concerned. All their life they have expected to be cared for by the NHS in their old age. Now they are finding they must pay for care themselves — and spend their hard-won savings in the process.

As the number of homeowners who, because they have accrued more capital, must now pay for care themselves grows, so the hope of wealth cascading down the generations fades. And bang goes the chance to take that ocean cruise, or to pay for your grandchildren's school fees.

In 1993, 60.6 per cent of all households where the head of the family was over 65 were owner-occupiers. The value of their property has also increased, thanks to the boom in the late 1970s and the 1980s.

Improving health means a steady increase in numbers of the elderly. In 1971 2.3 per cent of the population were over 80, compared with 3.9 per cent now. Not only are there more of them; there are fewer young people able or willing to be carers. Age Concern calculates that for those over 75, the ratio of carers to cared for will rise from one to 0.63 in 1992, to one to 1.09 in 2061.

At the same time, the National Health Service is withdrawing from long-term care. A generation was brought up expecting to be cared for from cradle to grave. But the number of geriatric beds has fallen from 75,000 in 1970 to 54,700 in 1994. The withdrawal is geographically patchy. In some areas the NHS still treats the elderly in its hospitals, while in others they are being released to care in the community.

Instead of getting geriatric nursing care free on the NHS, those with savings must pay for care in long-term nursing homes, mainly run by local councils. But the number of council-run homes has fallen too, from 137,000 beds in 1984 to 86,000 beds in 1994.

Those wishing for their fees to be paid in council or privately run nursing homes are first assessed by the social services department of the local authority. By law, it must carry out an assessment of your ability to pay if you are seeking help. It will take into account your income and your savings. At the moment, you will be expected to pay the full cost of care if you have more than £8,000 in capital.

What should the elderly do? The answer is nothing until after the Budget. The signs are that John Major is keen to ease the pressure on elderly homeowners who are being forced to use their savings to pay for help.

Furthermore, he may clear up the legal ambiguities that remain for those who transfer their home to their children in the hope of avoiding having to pay for state care, especially if the elderly remain in situ. Such a ruse is not foolproof, says the Law Society, which represents solicitors. Though there is no precedent for councils pursuing little old ladies for cash, it is not clear how far authorities will go to pursue contributions.

Even if you have successfully given away your home, the Law Society gives warning that old people should be aware of the consequences. Penny Letts, from the society, says: "Old people should be aware that they will have no choice in selecting a nursing home; the care will not necessarily be of a high standard; and relatives

HOW GEORGE AND NANCY LOUD ARE BEING PENALISED FOR THEIR THRIFT



Nancy Loud today and, right, with George before his illness



BUDGET changes could ease the position of Nancy Loud, who has spent more than £100,000 of her and her husband's savings on fees to the private residential home where George Loud has had to live since 1989.

Mr Loud served in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War and then ran a butcher's shop. He became ill with Alzheimer's in August 1988, and was admitted to hospital. While he was cared for by the NHS, Mrs Loud didn't have to pay a penny. But in November 1989, Mr Loud was transferred to Pinchurst private nursing home in Devon without debate. The hospital said it could not provide sufficient care. The home costs £375 a week, paid for by the

Louds, as Mr Loud's care is deemed to be a matter for social services, not the NHS.

"It seems so unfair. Because we have been thrifty, we are now being penalised. We were brought up to think that the NHS would care for us when we were sick. But we are paying ourselves out of hard-won savings, and they are fast running out. It is too late for us to get any health insurance."

It would help if the Government in the Budget agreed to pay nursing costs, leaving the residential costs to the Louds. But an increase of the threshold to £16,000 would not help significantly. "Even £16,000 isn't very much, especially if you own your own home," Mrs Loud says.

might not wish to top up costs to let them have a single rather than a shared room, for example. "Are you really sure that you should deprive yourself of a comfortable old age for the sake of your children?"

Some may consider avoiding this state system altogether by going into a private retirement scheme. Developers stress that long-term care in a nursing home may be avoidable if the elderly move to suitably designed sheltered housing at an earlier stage.

Sharon Hunt, from the developers English Courtyard, which this month won the Gold Award for the best retirement development in the What House? awards, says: "The

human and financial consequences of moving to a nursing home can be tragic for an elderly person. Specially designed housing can avoid the need for an enormous number of people to move to a nursing home, unless of course permanent medical attention is required, and this does not befall the majority of people."

It is true that most elderly people do not end up in a home. More than 75 per cent of people over the age of 85 in the UK are in neither residential nor nursing homes. Ms Hunt believes that many of those who end up in nursing homes do so because they do not realise other suitable accommodation exists

which would preserve financial assets.

But even private retirement schemes are expensive. Of those going into residential care, the average stay is three years for men, and seven years for women. Scott estimates put the average annual cost of private residential care as high as £15,000 a year, and of nursing home care at £17,000.

Colin Campbell of the Fover Group, which manages 44 retirement developments in Scotland, says that retirement homes too are under pressure because of cuts in the social services budgets of local councils. Services such as chiropody, for example, which were once

provided free, are no longer.

Others note that sixties-somethings may find the limitations of retirement homes restricting. In Scotland, a battle is being waged between a band of pensioners, the oldest of whom is 86, and the businessman who runs their sheltered homes. The pensioners wish for more control about the way the homes are managed and are withholding their service charges.

BBC Scotland's *Home Front* reports that in retaliation, Bruce Millar of Sheltered Housing Management is taking 81-year-old Mary More, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, to court. Court actions against other residents are

pending. A spokesman for Age Concern says: "The only answer is rigorously to find out as much as possible about a scheme before you move in."

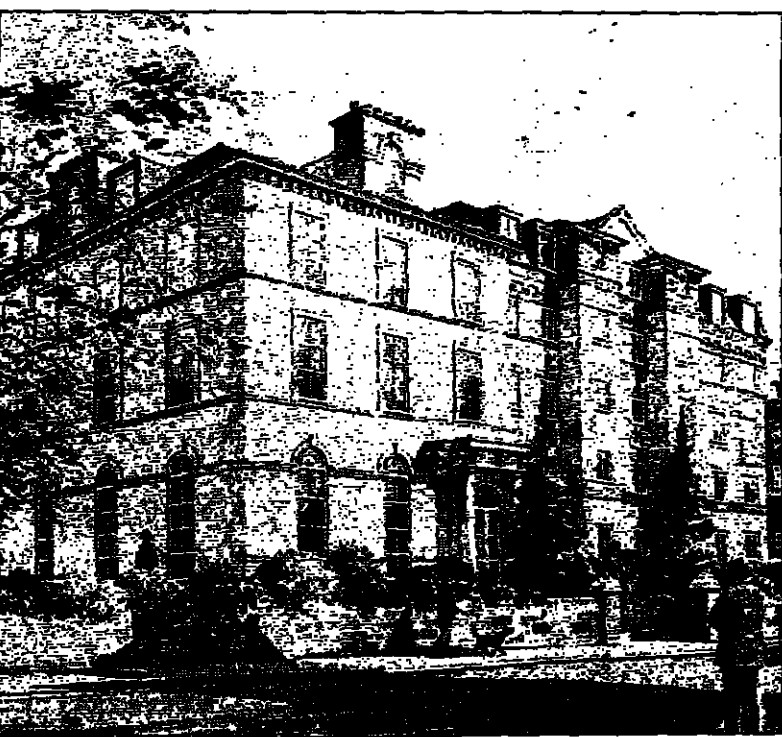
Obtaining Age Concern's *A Buyer's Guide to Retirement Housing* might also be sensible. The first chapter, on the pros and cons of retirement housing, is required reading. "There are many positive features of retirement housing," it says, "but... it is clear that many of the problems or dissatisfactions people face are based on unrealistic expectations."

It recommends considering whether you will like living in a smaller home. What about all those treasured items? Will you and your spouse feel so cramped up as to get on each other's nerves? Will you enjoy having more leisure time without the house to manage? The leases on some schemes forbid some types of alteration to retirement property. Will you enjoy having new company, and more of it, or would you rather have your former friends and neighbours? Will you find it noisy?

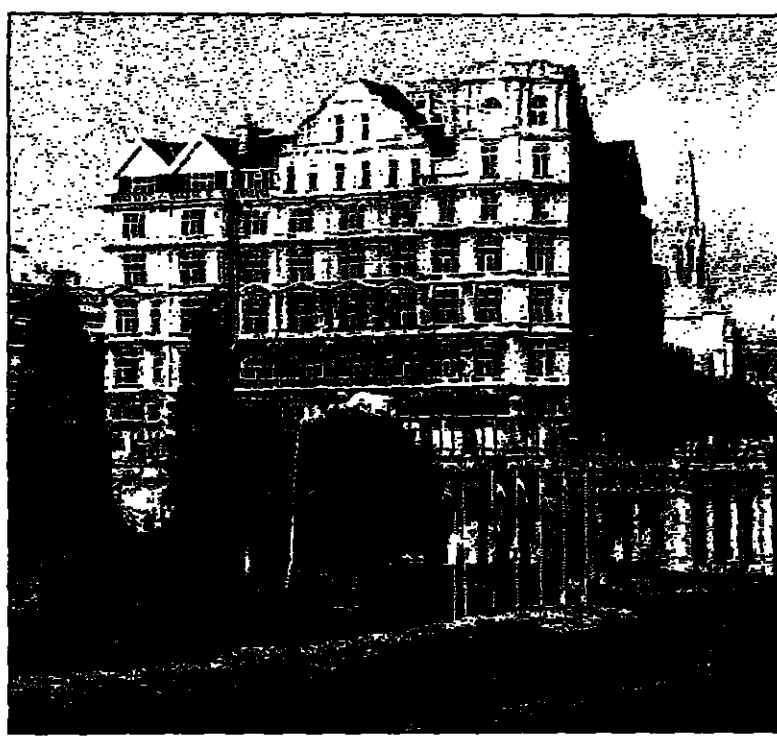
A part from such potential limitations, buying a sheltered home is no answer for those who do require permanent medical attention.

Some will be lucky enough to be looked after in their own home. The vast majority of elderly people, when asked, say they would like to stay in their own homes. Home care can be cheaper than nursing or residential care, yet many local authorities are placing a ceiling on the amount of services they will provide. Gaining access to such services is often fraught with difficulty — and is means-tested. Many authorities do not provide all the necessary services, so relatives must be relied upon.

Perhaps the only safe option is to consider private long-term health care insurance. It is too late for a generation who thought they could rely on the NHS, but there is still time for younger people who can plan for their future. PPP Lifetime, a subsidiary of Private Patients Plan and the market leader in long-term health insurance, says business is booming. Perhaps in the future there will be tax breaks for those taking out plans. Once again, await the Budget.



The Adelphi at Harrogate as it will look after conversion, and (right) the huge Empire Hotel at Bath, empty since 1989 but now being converted



Book a hotel room for life

One solution to retirement housing is being provided by Britain's grand old hotels, says Christine Webb

Once upon a time genteel folk used to retire to genteel hotels. These days those same hotels are being converted into retirement homes.

The latest is the Adelphi Hotel in Harrogate, which retirement specialist McCarthy and Stone is developing into retirement flats, rescuing the building from eight years of dereliction. The company is retaining its neo-classical facade, but partially demolishing what lies behind, rebuilding in natural stone to provide 74 apartments. These will cost from £55,000 to £100,000 when they go on the market next spring.

The package includes a gallery residents' lounge, a laundry room, lifts to all floors, a resident manager, a guest suite for visitors and extensive security systems.

Mervyn Cully of Robert Barry & Co, which specialises in selling hotels, has spotted the trend. "For two or three years in disarray, it's now regaining some poise but there are too many letting bedrooms are a number of hotels that are no longer viable," he says. "So longer viable," he says. "So longer viable," he says. "So longer viable," he says.

A central but quiet position is of paramount importance for retirement development. McCarthy and Stone is currently interested in several other hotel sites which, like the Adelphi, meet this criterion. "Location is all, both for amenities and to provide

pleasant surroundings," says Gary Day, of the company's planning bureau. "The bucket-and-spade holiday has been hit quite badly by the trend to go abroad, so more hotels are foundering."

The company is about to start work on the site of the Corrie Hotel at Swanage in Dorset, which used to be one of the town's premier hotels, with superb views over Swanage Bay. Some of the new flats will have balconies to make the most of the view. And the company is eyeing the Royal Hotel, Teignmouth.

"It is a prime site and was a flagship hotel, but it's not viable for hotel use now," says Mr Day. "We often have problems getting planning permission because local authorities are reluctant to lose hotels. We're looking at another hotel in Hastings which is in a conservation area, and the council is insisting on retention of the facade. But we'll continue to hunt for redundant hotels that lend themselves to sheltered housing because they're close to

shops and central facilities. "The Teignmouth hotel is a listed building in a conservation area and we argue that the overriding objective should be to secure a new use for the site, and achieve an environmental improvement as a result, because the property is very run-down."

run by a national restaurant chain. The huge Victorian structure dominates the riverside in the centre of Bath, near Pulteney Bridge. It was built in 1901 as Bath's leading luxury hotel, with a bizarre sixth and seventh-storey roof-line which includes a turret representing the Englishman's castle, a Dutch gable representing the manse, and twin gables representing a cottage.

But the hotel became less grand after the Admiralty requisitioned it as offices in 1939, vacating it only in 1989, since when it has remained empty. Pegasus won a competition run by Bath City Council to attract proposals for its use, and is now spending £7 million restoring the grand features of the hotel, converting it, and creating a riverside promenade with a parade of shops in the colonnades outside the main building.

Prices are high: from £150,000 for a one-bedroom flat to £400,000 for a four-bedroom one, with £295,000

being asked for the moderately sized but beautifully scheme two-bedroom show flat, which has one lift reception room. For comparison, a spacious three-bedroom flat in the Royal Crescent recently went for around £220,000. And local agent Cobb Farr Residential is marketing three spacious, luxuriously refurbished apartments about 150 yards away, at 77 Great Pulteney Street. A three-bedroom apartment there with two large reception rooms has just gone under offer close to its £320,000 price tag.

But Pegasus claims there is no shortage of customers willing to buy its package, which includes provision of a central control system for support and emergency back-up, a gymnasium, roof garden, a residents' lounge, and two guest suites for visitors; they say 40 per cent of the flats are reserved.

"It's never as cost-effective to convert as to build new, but we feel these fine buildings have a patina and style and refurbishing costs are balanced by greater sales," says the managing director, Dr Michael McCarthy. "This is the first large hotel we've done, the way we'd normally do things is to get a smaller hotel to convert, and half the project would be new building in the grounds."

"That's the sort of thing we're looking for at the moment; we've looked at 30 in the last couple of years. We came to Bath for a hotel; now we are considering a site in central London."



Gracious living: how Pegasus has transformed a dilapidated room at the old Empire Hotel

There is a Santa Claus

THE DIRE state of the housing market is encouraging a rash of special Christmas deals from estate agents and builders.

First-time buyers can move into two and three-bedroom homes in the West Country for £1 in a deal from the Taunton-based builders Alford Homes.

The builders are proposing to pay the 5 per cent deposit on the house, survey fees, legal fees up to £500, and throw in fitted carpets. Buyers are being offered mort-

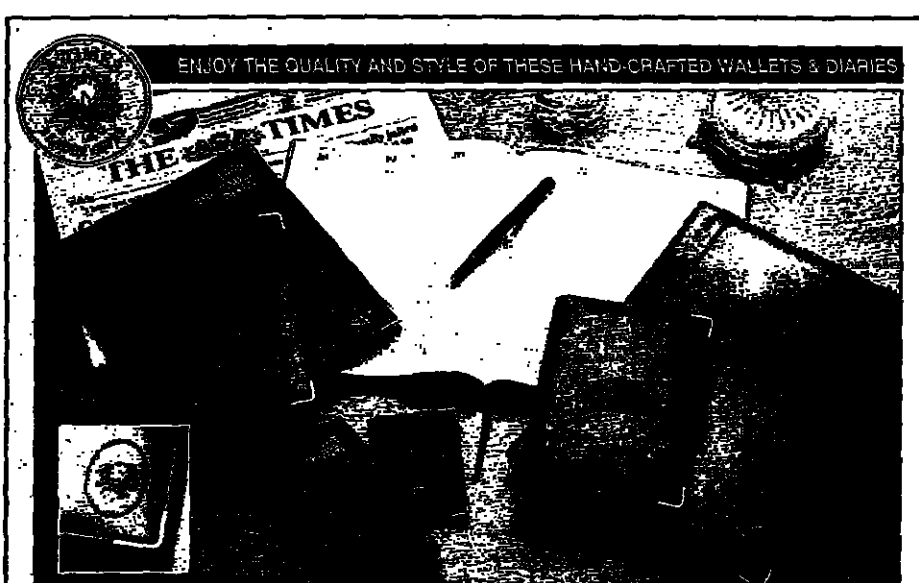
gages by the builders in a deal with the National and Provincial Building Society.

In London, Foxton's estate agents are offering to work for no commission, and will not charge for marketing, advertising or brochures at their St John's Wood office. Karen Hancock, associate director of Foxtons, says: "We are doing this because we are opening a new office. It means we make a name for ourselves very quickly."

The Alford Homes developments are at Martock in

Somerset, with one and two-bedroom homes from £37,950; at Frome in Somerset, where one, two and three-bedroom cottages start at £37,950; at Burnham-on-Sea in Somerset, where two-bedroom semi-detached houses start at £45,950 and three-bedroom semis cost £59,950; and at Saltsay in Cornwall, where two-bedroom terrace houses cost from £47,950 and three-bedroom end-of-terrace houses cost £64,950.

RACHEL KELLY



Executive leather collection

For readers who enjoy quality, The Times offers a collection of wallets and diaries, hand-stitched using the finest leathers. All items are available in black, embossed with The Times. Make your selection from the following:

● Executive diaries: the desk diary and its pocket equivalent come in either deep-grain Montezuma leather or smooth Napoli hide. The diary pages are printed in burgundy and grey type on top quality cream paper with gilt edging, and have perforated corners so you can easily access the current week.

The diaries have a 13-month week-on-two-pages (12 month in the pocket version), a burgundy ribbon marker, year planner, three-year forward planner, pages for expenses and staff holidays and 16 pages of world maps in colour. They measure 256mm x 210mm and 174mm x 84mm. Prices: Napoli desk £39.00, Napoli pocket £25.00, Montezuma desk £39.00, and Montezuma pocket £25.00.

All accessories are made in high-quality smooth black hide and lined with water-marked moiré and blonde pigskin.

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Pick of the independents

John Rae provides some pointers on what you should look for when choosing a school for your child

Earlier this year a mother and father were considering three well-known girls' boarding schools for their daughter. They rejected the first two. At the first, the headmistress summoned prospective parents in a large group and kept them waiting half an hour. At the second, the headmistress was charming but confessed that the recent appeal for funds had been disappointing. At the third, the daughter decided as they drove through grounds that this was the school for her even before they had met the headmistress, and that is where she now is.



Choosing an independent school is not an exact science. After all the checks, parents have to make a leap of faith. They are dealing with two imponderables: a school and their own child. Even if they think they know the latter, they will never really know enough about the former to be sure their choices are right.

The first step is to narrow the field. The strength of the independent sector is its diversity, which enables parents to match the school to what they perceive to be the needs of the child. But parents should clear their minds of prejudices.

It is a mistake to allow your own school days to influence your choice. Whether or not you were happy at boarding schools or think that your single sex school left you gauche and immature has no bearing. Nor should sentiment play a part. It is hard to think of a sillier reason to choose a school than that father went there. A snobbish prejudice in favour of famous names is also misplaced. Britain is no longer run by an old boy network.

With these prejudices out of the way, parents can concentrate on rational preferences. There are genuine centres of excellence in the independent sector and not just for academic high-flyers. The less academic child gets a better deal in a good independent school. Milton Abbey, for example, does wonders at A level for pupils who would not even have been admitted to the sixth form at Westminster.

Parents of musical children may choose between specialist music schools, such as Wells Cathedral School, and the many mainstream schools where music flourishes. Excellence in sport is commonplace, with Millfield perhaps the nation's best all-round sporting school.

Parents of children with special needs, such as dyslexia or attention deficit disorder, will find schools that know how to help - Cobham Hall, for example, has a dyslexia unit. And there are schools to meet every religious preference from Quakers to the great Benedictine foundation at Ampleforth.

The best guides to senior schools that recruit at 13 are the heads of preparatory schools. Heads of primary schools are not so well informed about day schools that recruit at 11.

School prospectuses are public relations vehicles that disguise as much as they reveal. A few schools are more forthcoming. Glenalmond encloses a copy of the latest inspectors' report. St Bees a list of current parents who are prepared to be quizzed about the school, and Millfield a detailed breakdown of each academic department's A-level performance. Parents need this sort of information but are afraid to ask for it, particularly at the oversubscribed day schools, in case it damages their child's chances.

Denied the information they want, parents rely on anecdotal evidence. Gossip can be useful as long as you listen to enough of it. One embittered parent can be discounted; several parents critical of a school should make you think twice. On the other hand, parents should keep their heads in perspective. Scandals, however embarrassing at the time, seldom knock good schools out of their stride.

If a head assures you that there is no illegal drug use or bullying among his pupils he is either dishonest or out of touch. All schools have these problems. Parents want to know how the school handles them. You should ask for a copy of the school's written



On the ball: Millfield, in Somerset, offers perhaps the best all-round sports facilities of any school in the country

policy on bullying and drugs. More than anything else, parents want to visit the school and meet the head. On the head's leadership so much depends, but the head of a large school cannot see every prospective parent so you may have to judge him by what you find in the school.

Do not be too impressed by the pupils who show you round. They are hand-picked. Insist on seeing a class in action, preferably of 15-year-olds, not well-scrubbed new boys. And count the desks. Unlike the Government, you know that class size matters.

If your visit coincides with mid-morning break, so much the better; it is in its informal moments that a school reveals itself. As the mob runs wild and teachers seek the safety of the staffroom, you will learn more about the ethos of the school than any mission statement can tell you.

The author is a former Headmaster of Westminster School.

Common worries on entrance exam

Never push a child beyond his or her natural abilities. The time-honoured rule of thumb offered by head teachers to parents choosing secondary schools is: "A child should always pass comfortably into the top two-thirds of the entry."

Remember that the head teacher's report is a very important document which will be pored over at senior schools. It is very foolish to apply to a school you have never visited or whose head you have never met.

Most schools, however, require a formal interview and thus selection is a two-way street. Interview practice, using a camcorder and video, is valuable. Some schools set their own exams for entry at either 11 or 13 so you may have to apply to the school for past papers.

Many schools, including Eton, Gordonstoun and Harrow, use the Common Entrance examination, tak-

Mike Kirby gives tactical tips for applicants

en annually by about 10,000 candidates, usually aged 13. The syllabus is demanding and tests pupils across the national curriculum.

To help your child to prepare you must acquire a syllabus for each subject and as many past papers as possible. These can be ordered from: Common Entrance Publications Ltd, Jordan House, Christchurch Road, New Milton, Hants BH25 6JQ. (01425 610016). A full set of 13-plus examinations costs £6.20, plus postage and packing.

Candidates aged 13 have to sit examinations of approximately one hour duration in religious studies, history, mathematics, geography, English, French and sciences (20 minutes each for physics, chemistry and biology). The most important are

mathematics, English and French, which deserve top priority.

The English papers pose questions which require broadly reflective answers, similar to those required at GCSE. There is one essay paper and one comprehension paper. The latter now includes poetry and is more likely to contain modern children's fiction than Charles Dickens. The requirement is for more prolonged responses rather than short, sharp answers. Vocabulary, spelling, clarity, grammar and syntax will all be judged. The key to success is to get the student reading. Authors who will appeal are Anne Fine, Nina Bawden and Fiona Wynne-Jones.

In French, the oral exam counts for 25 per cent of the marks. This involves a role play such as buying a ticket at a

station (5 per cent); describing a picture which the candidate has studied for ten minutes (10 per cent), and responding to ten simple questions to which candidates have prepared answers (10 per cent).

Listening comprehension counts for 25 per cent. A tape is played and students are required to answer questions in English. The written paper (50 per cent) comprises comprehension, which includes reading a text in French (advertisement, letter or literary passage) and responding in English. This is followed by a descriptive piece, part of which must be answered in the perfect tense.

In mathematics many students have difficulty completing all of the questions, so they must be drilled to attempt first those questions they can do, disregarding the original order.

The author is Principal of Ashbourne Independent School.

Preparing the ground well

David Tytler on what makes a good prep school

For many parents the overcrowded state primary school does not always seem the best bet for their children, despite the recent government report which said class size was not the dominant factor in a quality education.

A MORI poll of 1,135 families for the Independent Schools Information Service (Istis) showed that the main reasons parents choose independent schools for their children are high standards, good discipline and small classes. Basic skills are likely to be grasped earlier as teachers deal with perhaps 15 pupils rather than the 30-plus faced by their state school colleagues.

The good prep school will have features common to all good schools. It will treat its children as individuals who matter, provide security and firm but fair discipline and ensure they leave prepared for senior school as mature young adults. The most obvious difference is that prep schools educate children up to the age of 13, not 11, when they sit the common entrance examination to admit them to senior independent schools such as Eton, Harrow, Winchester and Gordonstoun.

In the early years, particularly if the school has an infant or pre-preparatory department, the curriculum will be the same as any good primary school since, while it is not compulsory, most prep schools follow the national curriculum.

One of the educational advantages that prep schools do have over the average state primary is that they are likely to have specialist teachers in, for example, the sciences and modern foreign languages. Many of them also have a strong sporting tradition. But just how well qualified are the staff, how recent are their qualifications and if they are non-specialists have they been on training courses to bring them up to speed?

In choosing a school, parents have to make some fundamental choices: boarding or a day, single-sex or coeducational, and should it belong to a particular religious denomination. Having made the basic decision, send for the prospectuses of a number of schools and see what they are offering. They are all different. It would, though, be wise to stick with one that is a member of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory

Schools (IAPS) which has been around for more than 100 years. Schools are only admitted to membership after inspection and then have to maintain standards.

Once you have received a number of prospectuses compile a shortlist of, say, three schools and visit each of them with your child, arranging interviews with the head. One of the many truisms in education is that where there is a good head there is a good school. Has the head been at the school a long time? Is there evidence of a rapid turnover in staff?

A school visit will reveal much about the school in the way the children behave, whether they are friendly, happy and confident, trusted to show visitors round the school. Among the questions to ask are: Does the school have a strong music or art department? Is there a strong sporting tradition? Which senior schools do the pupils move on to? How many scholarships do its pupils receive for senior schools? There are many, such as the Hall School, Hampstead, north London, that are particularly successful.

If one of the many successful London day schools is the ultimate target for a secondary education, it is worth considering the tied house, a prep school linked to the senior school. Beware, though: transfer to its senior brother or sister is not necessarily automatic. In most cases, pupils will have to pass an entrance examination, although the majority of pupils do move into the senior school.

If the school chosen is a boarding school, visit the studies and dormitories, preferably in term time as there is nothing quite so bleak as an empty, undecorated dormitory or study. Ask also what arrangements are made if children are taken ill and, if it is full-time boarding, what are the weekend arrangements.

And if you are not made to feel welcome, think again. A warm welcome is the least you should expect from a school that will be charging you up to £9,000 a year for boarding or £6,000 for a day pupil. You, after all, are the customer and an education will be not only one of the most expensive things you buy but also one of the most important.



Moving on: 13-year-olds prepare to leave the Hall School, Hampstead

Plan ahead to pay the fees

The average boarding place now costs £10,700 a year, reports David Charter

More parents than ever who want their children to go to independent schools are putting money by in advance, according to the Independent Schools Information Service (Istis).

The rising cost of school fees means a third of parents now join an advance planning scheme compared with 25 per cent in 1989.

Istis lists organisations offering specialist advice in its *School Fees*. Anne Reek of School Fees Insurance Agency, one of the recommended firms, said it helps parents who can invest in advance as well as those with children already in school.

She said: "Parents who plan early can save money and tax. They may have capital to invest or may be able to save a regular monthly sum and the most important thing to look for is low to medium risk, depending on the time they have before fees are required."

SFIA has developed its own personal equity plan (Pep), which would have to be taken out five years before the money is needed, although the maximum investment is £5,000 per parent. Fees for two children boarding at some schools could top £200,000, so SFIA also advises parents to take out an education trust plan, which gives a guaranteed return and tax-free growth, provided the money is used for educational purposes.

Parents with children already at school can remortgage their property to arrange a "draw down" loan, where money is released as fees fall due, keeping interest charges to a minimum. SFIA also has an unsecured loan plan.

Independent school fees went up by 4.5 per cent this year, according to Istis. This

follows a 4.2 per cent rise last year and means the average cost of a day school place is currently around £4,583 a year, with the average boarding place costing £10,706.

John Major has promised to double the Assisted Places Scheme, which subsidises fees for low-income parents for 30,000 children at 300 senior schools. So far the Department for Education and Employment has not confirmed whether the extension of the scheme will mean assisted places for preparatory schools.

A number of schools also offer their own discount schemes, taking advantage of charitable status to cushion the burden on parents. Malvern College in Worcester-shire, for example, operates a "fees in advance" scheme. Parents' money is invested, guaranteeing a 5.75 per cent return. Jeremy Bird, secretary of the Independent Schools Bursars Association, said: "Schools are bending over backwards to help - 20 years ago they would never have taken fees in monthly instalments but nowadays they will do that if asked."

One Yorkshire prep school even offers a refund of the final year's fees should a child fail to get into a senior independent school. James Lynch, Principal of North Leeds Preparatory School, did not have to make any repayment last year, the first of his offer.

Parents should also bear in mind that the last Istis survey of bursaries and scholarships, in 1991, showed schools had £55 million available. Details of bursaries available from schools can be found in the *Independent Schools Yearbook* published by A&C Black.

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You fly to Kuala Lumpur with Malaysia Airlines to stay for five nights at the Golden Sands hotel (above), popular with families for the Sands Gang club, where they organise events for children. There is also a night market nearby for shopping when the sun goes down.

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سكوا من الامم

Smith looks for victory to lift gloom over Ibrox

By Kevin McCarra

IN THEIR European Cup Champions' League match against Steaua Bucharest tonight, Rangers are out to avert ignominy after taking just a single point from their first four games in the competition.

Given those performances, Walter Smith, the manager, is bashful when he discusses his team's chances of qualifying for the quarter-finals.

With a side that has so far failed to win at all, there is a reluctance even to admit that victories over Steaua and Borussia Dortmund, in Germany, would take Rangers into the last eight.

Smith is more intent on dragging his team clear of the embarrassing reputation that threatens to engulf them after heavy defeats by Juventus.

The Ibrox club is left trying to justify all their expensive

work of recent years. When so much wealth has been devoted to the task, impoverished results shake Rangers with much more than mere disappointment. While there is always a wearisome emphasis on Paul Gascoigne by outsiders, the team itself is far more dependant on Brian Laudrup, who returned in the 3-3 draw with Celtic on Sunday after missing more than seven weeks through injury.

The Dane scored a goal and exerted influence in the Old Firm game, but he has yet to demonstrate that his presence would have been of consequence had he been fit for either match with Juventus.

Laudrup, a reliable terroriser of Scottish defences, is yet to have any significance in a European tie for Rangers.

Alarmingly, he hardly seems equipped to vindicate himself this evening, having admitted that he still feels stiff and sore after his appearance against Celtic. The forward is not convinced that he can last 90 minutes tonight, but with or without him, Rangers require a complete performance.

In the pre-season Ibrox tournament, they defeated the Romanians, who had been raining for only a couple of days, 4-0. The Champions League fixture in Bucharest, however, saw Rangers lose 1-0. Dumitru Dumitru, the Steaua manager would rather his side were regarded as the inept bunch who bumbled through their last trip to Glasgow.

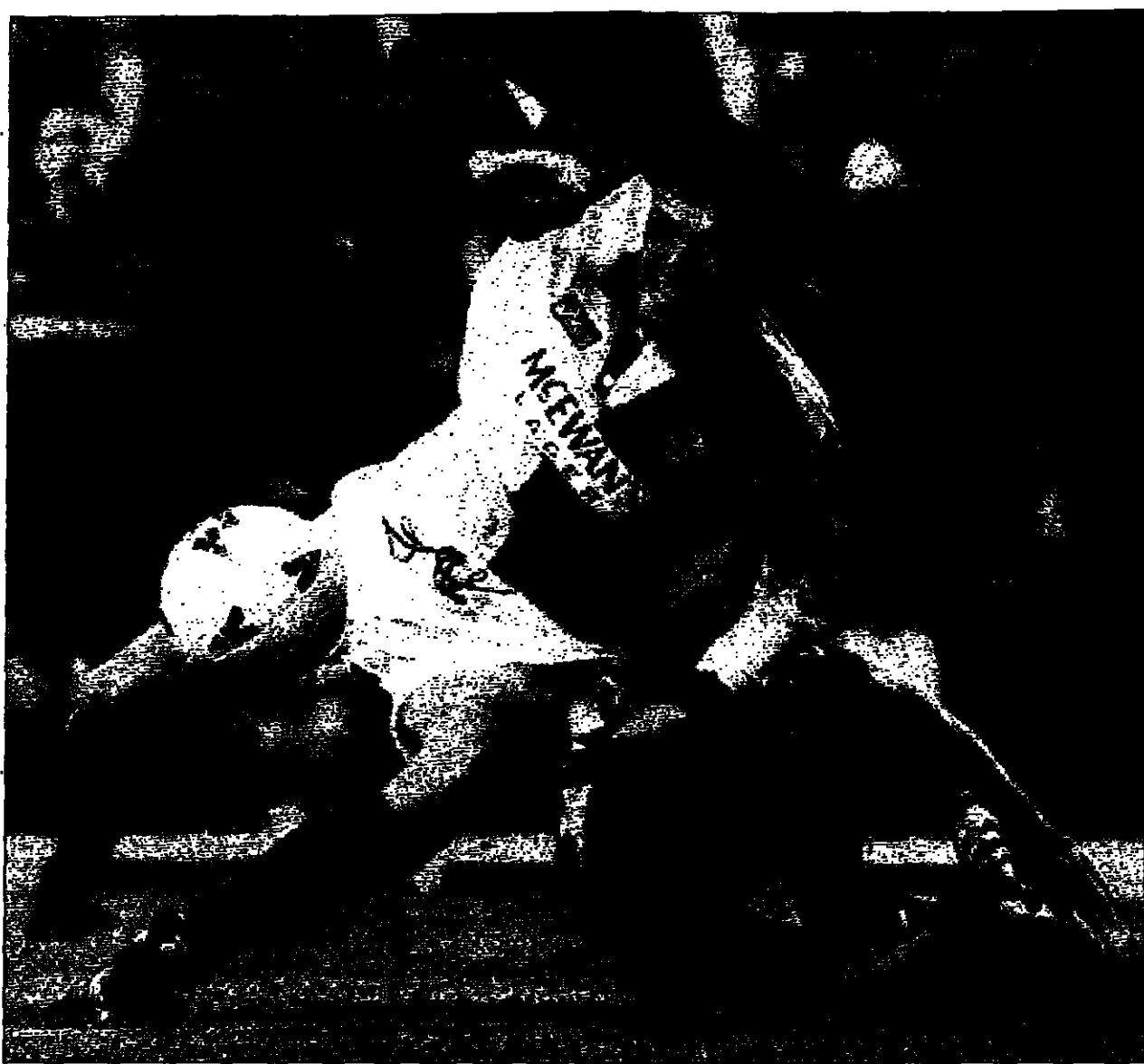
He claims that Juventus and Borussia Dortmund are virtually sure to qualify for the quarter-finals. Should his team even draw this evening, though, Steaua will at least ensure that Rangers finish behind them in group C.

Smith's team could then hope only to match the Romanian champions' tally of five points, but Steaua would hold the better record in the two Champions' League games between the teams.

"They are," Smith said, "underrating themselves because Steaua could still qualify from the group and they are in a more favourable position than us. They actually have the bigger incentive in this game."

The Rangers manager and his Romanian counterpart appear to be engaged in a contest to see who can declare his team the more unworthy. Despite that, there will be no self-deprecation when the game starts. Rangers may abandon their customary three-man defence and revert to an old-fashioned back four, with Alan McLaren taking the place of the suspended Alex Cleland at right back.

Steaua score only infrequently, and Rangers can expect to spend much of the evening attempting to find a way past the cautious visitors. Smith said that the Juventus results had cast a shadow over Ibrox, but anything less than victory tonight will plunge the place into despair.



Sutton, who may be recalled after a five-match absence to play Spartak Moscow. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Blackburn face chilling prospect

FROM PETER BALL IN MOSCOW

A MOSCOW winter tests the strongest invaders, as Napoli, among others, discovered. For Blackburn Rovers, it provides the setting for the most challenging of their European Cup Champions' League matches as they play Spartak Moscow, the group B leaders, in the Luzhniki Stadium here tonight. They could hardly have a harder task as they search for their first win in Europe.

"Our performance in the Champions' League has been the biggest disappointment of my career so far," Alan Shearer said yesterday. Shearer, for one, knows that serious questions have been asked about the players' performances with doubts about his capacity to play against the man-marking of European football.

Ray Harford, the manager, believes that they are better for the experience and can begin to salvage something tonight. "We felt when we played them at home that we

did all right," Harford said. "We did it in a typically English way. It wasn't particularly scientific, but it was effective and we caused them a few problems."

"It is a different game away from home, but we would like to silence a few critics. Everybody in the club is better for the experience without any doubt — a little bit scarred in places and a little bit aggrieved in places, but better for it."

If Blackburn are to salvage anything tonight, they will certainly surprise a lot of people, for both the opposition and the conditions are against them. The first snows of the long Russian winter have already fallen. Moscow, so far, is under a covering rather than a blanket, but jockeys hang from the outer walls of the Kremlin.

The kit sponsors have supplied thermal underwear and gloves. "There are lights, too," Harford said, "but I don't know whether they will all want to wear them, particularly as it's on television."

However, the chill in the air

as the Blackburn players walked across Red Square late yesterday afternoon should have persuaded even the hardest among them that comfort outweighs false notions of English machismo.

Spartak have emerged as the outstanding team in the group. If the winter break and bad weather do not disrupt their preparations too much, the Russians could mount a serious challenge when the quarter-finals arrive in March.

Yet Spartak's main worry is whether their team will still be together come March. Onopka, the impressive, balding sweeper, is bound for Atlético Madrid as soon as the competition is over. Everton and Arsenal are interested in Yuran, the striker who is available for £2 million. Kulkov has attracted the attention of Tottenham Hotspur and Tsimbalari is being watched by Blackburn.

"You can't always tell about a player when he is playing against you," Harford said, "but I shall go and watch him during their friendlies in

Germany during the mid-winter break. He is a very good player, a bit like Kanchelskis but left-sided."

Tsimbalari and Yuran will pose some probing questions for the Blackburn defence, but the principal challenge for the English champions will be to score goals. They did so with a vengeance last Saturday, the seven against Nottingham Forest giving them the perfect send-off for this game, but that was inspired by Bohinen, who is not eligible for this match, and replacing him is likely to prove Harford's most difficult decision.

In recent games, Warhurst has done so, but without success, and Harford may feel tempted to try Chris Sutton in the attacking midfield role, which he said the player filled with distinction when Blackburn were reduced to ten men against Manchester United just over a year ago.

If he can do so successfully against Spartak, his case for a return to the first team on a regular basis, after missing the past five matches, will be much strengthened.

Jones faces punishing battle in bid to gain world title

By Srikanth Sen Boxing Correspondent

PAUL JONES, of Sheffield, faces a difficult task in trying to lift the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) light-middleweight title from Verno Phillips, of the United States, at the Hillsborough Leisure Centre tonight. Jones has never met anybody of world class. He has had 32 contests, of which he has lost eight, but none of his opponents has given him a taste of boxing at such a level.

After being stopped by Paul Wesley, of Birmingham, in 1992, Jones took two years off to consider his future. He returned in January this year and has had five wins, one against a strong opponent in Dan Juma, who boxes out of Belfast.

Most of Phillips's opponents, if not in the top bracket, are a cut above those that Jones has faced. From 1990 to 1992, Phillips met ten Argentinians and stopped eight of them inside the distance, but when Jones took on Hugo Marinangeli, also of Argentina, he was unable to go beyond two rounds.

Phillips was beaten in his most recent defence, against Gianfranco Rosi, of Italy, in May, but, two weeks later, Rosi was alleged to have taken amphetamines and the title was handed back to Phillips.

Jones was persuaded to take up the sport again by Freddie King, the trainer, after acting as a sparring partner to Eamonn Loughran, the WBO welterweight champion. "I came south to spar with Eamonn because I wanted a few quid, but I had no intention of ever boxing again," he said. "Freddie said I should give it another go, and promised me a comfortable comeback fight to see how I felt."

"From then on, it all happened for me. I became a born-again boxer and my attitude changed. Before I retired in 1992, I'd been slogging away for six years in the British top ten and did not get a look in."

"In the past few months, I've achieved everything I'd wanted from boxing in those years. I just can't believe it. I've served my apprenticeship and deserve everything that comes to me."

Jones is unlikely to trouble Phillips, but, if he puts on one of his better displays, the Sheffield man could go the distance.

Brighton turn to Case for salvation

JIMMY CASE yesterday took over as manager of Brighton, Case, 41, who recently announced his retirement after playing 626 league matches, accepted the job after a two-hour meeting with Bill Archer, the Sussex football club's chairman.

Case accepted a two-year contract at the club that he helped to the FA Cup Final in 1983 and to which he was brought back at the age of 39 by Liam Brady, who resigned as the manager on Monday.

Olympia line-up

Equestrianism: Show jumping's leading four titleholders will compete at the Olympia International championships next month for the first time in the event's 24 years. Ludwig Beerbaum, the Olympic champion, is joined by his compatriot, Franke Smoots, the world champion, Nick Skelton, of Great Britain, the holder of the World Cup, and Peter Charles, the European champion from Ireland.

Threat to lead

Yachting: Twenty-two days into her record circumnavigation attempt, Samantha Brewster, 28, the solo yachtswoman, has run into serious problems with the mast of 72-foot yacht, *Heath*. Her lead over the record schedule set by Mike Golding will be wiped out unless she can fix it by today.

Hay on target

Shooting: Jackie Hay, of Wilton Recreation Club in Cleveland, was the first English winner at the Commonwealth rifle championships in Delhi yesterday when she took the women's smallbore prone championship.

Broncos deal

Rugby league: London Broncos yesterday announced that they had signed a one-year deal with Charlton Athletic to stage their home matches at The Valley.

Jackson's title

Disabled sport: Simon Jackson extended his unbeaten run to 65 fights in top championships when he won the European judo title for the visually impaired in the 78 kilogram category at Valladolid.

Little plays down Villa's potential

By Russell Kempson

ASTON Villa's emergence as contenders for the FA Cup, confirmed by an impressive 1-0 victory against Southampton on Monday night, has not convinced everybody. Villa might have given a slick display at The Dell, creating 29 goal chances, but Dave Merrington, the Southampton manager, offered a conservative perspective.

"Villa made some smart buys during the summer and are a much better side this season," he said. "They have worked hard to get where they are, and deserve great credit, but they are good as Newcastle United, Manchester United or Liverpool? I don't think so; not yet."

Merrington's views were not born of frustration after his side had played a vigorous yet fruitless part in proceedings. Only 48 hours earlier, Southampton had been taken apart 4-1 by Manchester United at Old Trafford. They also lost 3-1 at home to Liverpool in October, yet inflicted upon Newcastle their solitary defeat this season, 1-0 at The Dell in September.

Brian Little, the Villa manager, offered a similarly considered response to questions about the winning of championships or cups. "Wait until we play the other sides in the top six," he said. He was also keen to play down suggestions that his squad, so sensitively recruited, could be about to lose one of its key members.

Steve Staunton, the Ireland utility player, has been the subject of regular reports that

he will be leaving Villa Park in swap-plus-cash deals involving either Chris Sutton, the Blackburn Rovers striker, or Stan Collymore, the unsettled Liverpool forward. After recovering from injury, Staunton has started only three matches this season.

"We have worked hard to get together a good squad," Little said. "What you mustn't do is suddenly break it up and leave yourself only 13 or 14 players. Steve just needs to get some hard training and a few games under his belt. I'm not willing to let him go, not at the moment and not unless it suits us."

Tonight sees a mixed bag of competition, ranging from the European Cup Champions' League and the FA Premiership to the Endleigh Insurance League first division and

the FA Cup first round. Manchester United continue their Premiership pursuit of Newcastle, who are six points clear, when they travel to beleaguered Coventry City. Come the end of the evening, the gap at the top will most likely have been halved.

Liverpool, still smarting from their 2-0 Merseyside derby defeat on Saturday, visit West Ham United, while Stamford Bridge could witness another sordid episode in Chelsea's most public of boardroom squabbles — Ken Bates, chairman, versus Matthew Harding, would-be chairman — when Bolton Wanderers visit. It might be wise for Bates to remain in his sickbed, with the mood swings among Chelsea supporters appearing to have edged towards Harding.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent
There was a good slam and an excellent slam on this hand from a BBL Premier League match. They both went down.

Dealer North	Game all	IMP's
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<p>♠ A ♥ J 8 6 5 3 ♦ J 9 8 5 4 2 ♣ 8 3</p>		<p>♠ 10 ♥ A K 8 7 4 2 ♦ K 10 3 ♣ J 7 4</p>

Contract: (6) Six Hearts by South. Lead: Six of Diamonds
(7) Six Spades by North. Lead: Ten of Clubs

When Calderwood and Shek held the North-South cards, they bid to Six Hearts. South won the diamond in dummy and played a heart to the king. This is the correct play in the suit — it allows you to pick up Jxxx in either hand. Declarer continued by finessing the ten of hearts and playing off the queen of hearts. He then played a spade to the ten.

If, after winning the ace of spades, West had continued diamonds, the declarer would have been able to win in hand, draw trumps and claim 12 tricks. Instead, Tony Sowter, my team-mate, switched to clubs. Now, the declarer had no way back to his hand to draw the last trump. He tried ruffing a spade low, but West was able to overtrump. Six Hearts is extremely unlikely to fall — it needs hearts

4-0 with West holding the length, and spades 5-1 with East holding the length, to beat it.

Senior and I played Six Spades, which is odds on but much inferior to Six Hearts. Six Spades goes down on all 5-1 spade breaks and also on some more normal spade breaks when the defence is able to get a heart ruff.

We were lucky not to lose on the board. Our auction was One Spade; Two Hearts; Three Spades; Four Spades; 4 NT; Five Diamonds; Six Spades. A better auction would have been for me to bid 3 NT over Three Spades or for Senior to bid Six Hearts over Five Diamonds, giving me choice of slams.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ZIT

- a. A mosquito
- b. Zero Integer Transfer
- c. A pimple

SLEEVEEN

- a. A detachable sleeve
- b. A servant
- c. A crook

TAMBOO

- a. A tree idol
- b. A sieve
- c. A shelter

TIKKA

- a. Skewered meat
- b. The Indian woodpecker
- c. Egyptian backgammon

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene Chess Correspondent

Shirov leads

Alexei Shirov is ahead in five matches. Michael Adams, of Great Britain, is struggling, having lost again. In this game, Jan Timman, the Dutch grandmaster, forces victory with a brilliant series of knight pirouettes.

White: Jan Timman
Black: Michael Adams
Belgrade, November 1995

Ruy Lopez	Nimzowitsch Defence
1 e4 e5	1 e4 e5
2 Nf3 Nc6	2 Nf3 Nc6
3 Bb5 a6	3 d4
4 Bxc6 dxc6	4 Nc3 Bg4
5 O-O	5 Bc5
6 d4	6 Bg4
7 Nxd4	7 d5
8 Nb3	8 Bb5+
9 Rd1	9 dxc3
10 Bg2	10 Bc4
11 Bf4	11 Oe2
12 Nc3	12 g4
13 Na5	13 O-O-O
14 Kf1	14 Qc4
15 Nd5	15 Nf4
16 Bc7	16 Bb6
17 Nd7	17 Rb3
18 Nd5	18 exd5
19 Nxc6	19 Qxd3
20 Na7+	20 Rf1
21 Nd4	21 g6
22 Nd5	22 Kd1
23 Nd6	23 Nf4
24 Nd5	24 Nf6
25 Nd6	25 dxe7+
26 Nd5	26 Nd7
27 Nd4	27 Nf5
28 Nd6	28 Qd5+
29 Rd2	29 Qd5+
30 Rd1	30 Qf3+
31 e5	
32 Rb6+	
33 Rd8	

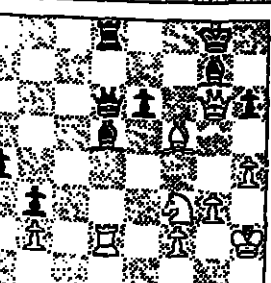
Black resigns

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Rajna — Popovic, Hungary, 1980. Black's queenside pawns are advancing menacingly. White must therefore act immediately. How did he continue?



Solution on page 46

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Genoa all-ticket

European Cup Champions' League

Group A

Porto v Nantes

Panathinaikos v Aalborg BK

Group C

Rangers v Steaua Bucharest

Juventus v Borussia Dortmund

Group D

Real Madrid v Ajax

Ferencvárosi v Grasshoppers

Group E

Ajax

Real Madrid

Ferencvárosi

Grasshoppers

Group F

FA Cup

First round

Altrincham v Crewe (7.45)

Farnborough v Brantford (7.45)

Bell's Scottish League

Premier division

Hibernian v Partick

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE

First round

Spokane v Seattle (5.30)

Portland v Vancouver (7.45)

Seattle v Portland (7.45)

Vancouver v Seattle (7.45)

Group B

Spokane v Seattle (5.30)

Portland v Vancouver (7.45)

Seattle v Portland (7.45)

Vancouver v Seattle (7.45)

Group C

Rangers v Steaua Bucharest

Juventus v Borussia Dortmund

Group D

Real Madrid v Ajax

Ferencvárosi v Grasshoppers

Group E

Ajax

Real Madrid

Ferencvárosi

Grasshoppers

Group F

FA Cup

First round

Altrincham v Crewe (7.45)

FA YOUTH CUP

First round

Spokane v Seattle (5.30)

Portland v Vancouver (7.45)

Seattle v Portland (7.45)

Vancouver v Seattle (7.45)

Group B

Spokane v Seattle (5.30)

Portland v Vancouver (7.45)

Seattle v Portland (7.45)

Vancouver v Seattle (7.45)

Group C

Rangers v Steaua Bucharest

Juventus v Borussia Dortmund

Group D

Real Madrid v Ajax

Ferencvárosi v Grasshoppers

Group E

Ajax

Real Madrid

Ferencvárosi

Grasshoppers

Group F

FA Cup

First round

Altrincham v Crewe (7.45)

FA YOUTH CUP

First round

Spokane v Seattle (5.30)

Portland v Vancouver (7.45)

Seattle v Portland (7.

New Zealand's flying wing halts to pay homage in Wales

Lomu at large in valley of kings

Andrew Longmore
meets a giant of
rugby determined
to remain gentle

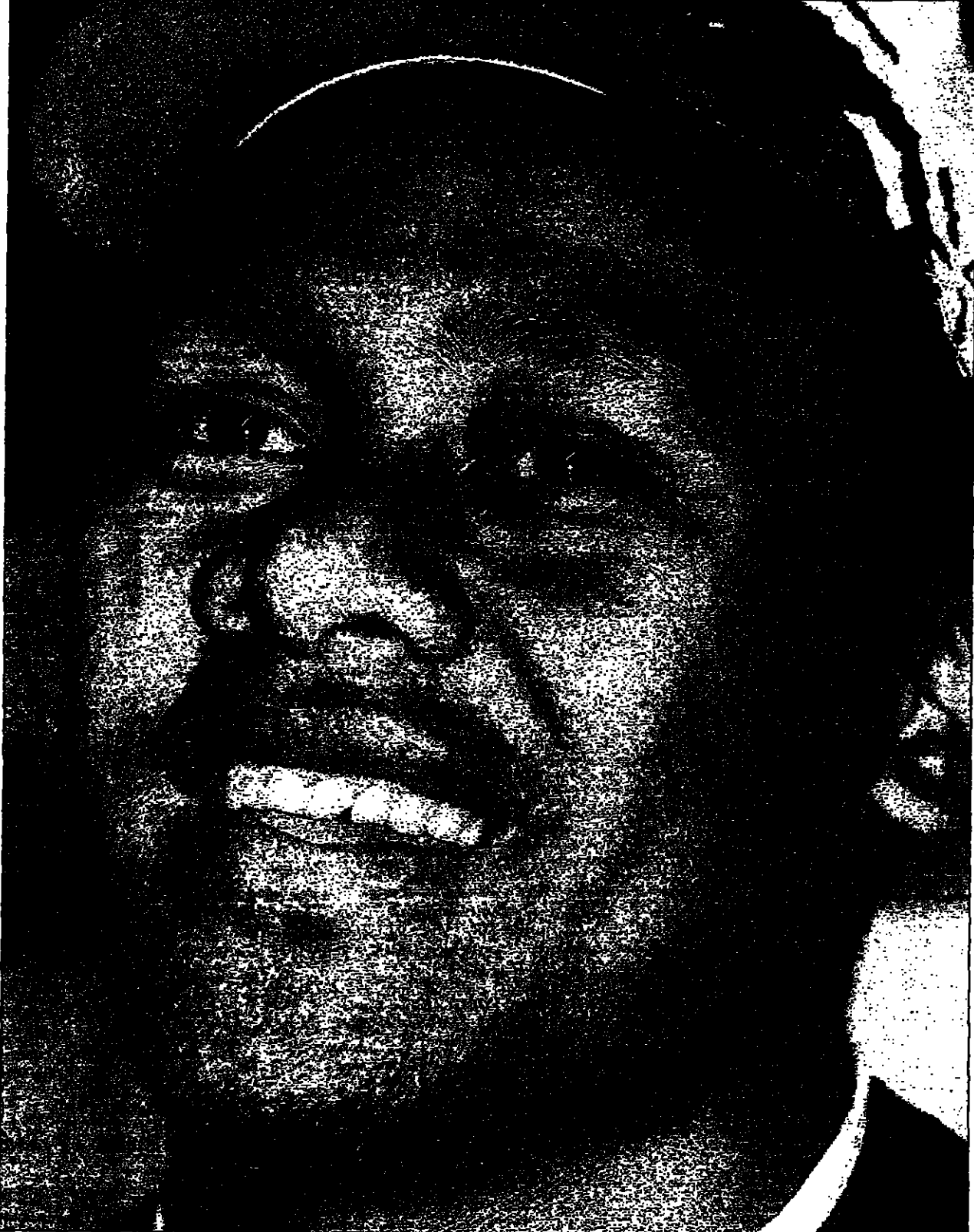
In the main room at the Blaenau Rugby Club yesterday, you could buy an album of Elvis Presley's greatest hits for 50p in a brick-a-brac sale. In the bar next door, a rerun of Jonah Lomu's greatest hits could be heard for free, narrated by the man himself, who was marking his first trip to Great Britain with a visit to the ancient heartland of rugby.

Blaenau RFC might be in the third division of the Welsh national league these days, but the club has nurtured some talent in its time — Robert Norster and David Watkins, among others. Even so, reckoned Tony Adams, the club's social secretary, Lomu was the greatest player to have visited the town, certainly the most famous name and, at 4ft 4in and 19 stone, the biggest frame to have stayed in the Lamb House, the local B&B. At least the bed was big enough. When he goes to Wrexham later in the week for the second leg of his tour of Wales, the club there has had a bed built specially for him.

Lomu had come to Wales to play in Iwan Evans's testimonial in Llanelli last night and to fulfil a long-standing promise to Phil Kingsley Jones, his manager, to turn out for Wrexham in a match against a Select North Wales XV on Sunday. On the way, he had to pay homage to Blaenau, where Kingsley Jones was born and raised. "From the moment I met him, nearly seven years ago," Lomu said, "he has been going on about the Welsh singing, the coal mines and the rugby, so I thought I had better come and see for myself." He had picked the right day for it. The valley was wrapped in thick mist. "A culture shock and a weather shock," he said.

The previous night, Lomu had been presented with a portrait to mark his visit, had signed autographs until his hand ached, listened to the tales of Blaenau's past and, without touching a drop himself, boosted the club's bar profits by a conservative estimate of £2,000. "I tell you what, he's not quite as broad as he seems on the television," Martin Powell, the general secretary and barman, mused. "Tall, like, but not as big. Still wouldn't like to have him running at me, mind."

A late-night visit to the outpatients clinic at Pontypool had not been part of the schedule, though. Troubled by toothache since a stray boot had connected with his jaw in France recently, Lomu finally had the damaged tooth removed and it might ease Tony



Pearly king: Lomu at Blaenau yesterday, after his emergency visit to the dentist. Photograph: Huw Evans

Underwood's pain to learn that it took six injections, four more than normal, to lay the New Zealander low.

No, Lomu said yesterday, he had not seen Underwood, since the World Cup in South Africa last summer — not even for the filming of the Pizza Hut advertisement, that used technological wizardry to unite them with Underwood's mother and brother, Rory. "But if I run into him, I'll say hi," Lomu said, looking a trifle confused by the laughter. Run over, more like. Underwood's career has yet to be restored to the vertical after the cartoon-like flattening by Lomu in

England's semi-final defeat. Underwood's biggest blunder, it seems, came before that match at Newlands.

During the All Blacks' haka, the England wing had inadvertently winked at Lomu. "That was a challenge, that fired me up a little bit more," Lomu said. "What came into my head was: 'I'm going to wipe that wink off your face,' and then I led to B and B led to C." C, of course, led to the tryline. Four times. Twice before England had blinked.

Yesterday, Lomu looked far from the "freak" described by Will Carling. Quietly spoken, patient, gentle, flanked by his

girlfriend and his half-brother (in size as well), he has been well coached by his ebullient manager in the art of cushioning particular questions with general answers. He said all the right things. Wales were a great side, heaps of potential; England were a great side, should use their talented backs more; the people of Wales were warm and friendly. He meant every word of it, too.

He had stayed in rugby union, he explained, not for the four-year contract worth £500,000, but to be close to his family and

friends back in New Zealand, though, with 11 internationals scheduled for next year — five against South Africa, the world champions — precious little time would be spent at home. Offers from rugby league and American football had been politely rejected, along with invitations to do a parachute jump for charity, to race against Colin Jackson, Wales's former world champion hurdler, and to play for Blaenau's first XV against Bullth Wells on Saturday.

"Shame," Powell said, shaking his head. "We could have done with him. It's a big game."

'Stamping' injury should not cost Rodber his place

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TIM RODBER, the England flanker, yesterday alleged that he was the victim of stamping during the international against South Africa at Twickenham on Saturday. The Northampton forward suffered severe bruising and nerve damage through his left arm during England's 24-14 defeat, and had to leave the field in the 65th minute.

He said: "I got stamped on after about ten minutes. It happened after Ted tackled Kruger following a scrum. I couldn't feel my arm or my hand and, as the game went on, it got much worse."

Rodber expects to have recovered in time for the international against Western Samoa, at Twickenham on December 16.

Pontypridd make their bow in the Heineken Cup at Cardiff Road tonight against a Milan team bristling with internationals, ten of them Italian and one, Gustavo Milano, from Argentina. Against that, Pontypridd offer only three capped players — Neil Jenkins and Paul John at half back, and Greg Prosser in the second row.

Jenkins, the Welsh league's leading points-scorer with 145 this season, will be one of the home trump cards, particularly if Diego Dominguez has another off-day for Milan. The stand-off half missed kick after kick when Milan were beaten 24-21 by Leicester in the European competition earlier this month.

The touring Transvaal side, beaten 39-14 by Leicester in their opening fixture on Monday, meet Bristol at the Memorial Ground tonight.

The match gives Mark Regan and James Dalton, the hookers who met in the international last Saturday, an opportunity to further their acquaintance.

Dick Best, the Harlequins coaching director, yesterday urged the Rugby Football Union to clear the way for John Gallagher, the former New Zealand full back, to return to rugby union. Best insists that Gallagher, 31, who turned professional when he joined Leeds five years ago, should be allowed to revert to his former code in the same way that Jonathan Davies did last month.

Adrian Spencer, the Cambridge University Blue banned from playing rugby union for a year after it was revealed that he had played rugby league for London Crusaders, returns to the union field this afternoon. Spencer, 22, has been named in the university second XV to play London Hospital at Grange Road. His ban was dropped at an RFU meeting last week.

Faaiuasoa baffles students

Oxford University 15
Western Samoans 47

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IT IS a measure of Western Samoa's need for the highest possible profile for their rugby that they arrived in Oxford for the English leg of their tour disappointed at their failure to grasp a rare international win away from home at Murrayfield last Saturday.

A dank and dripping afternoon at Iffley Road seemed

scarcely the place to lift their mood until Tulele Faaiuasoa snapped up four tries with a high, leggy action and change of pace that baffled his opponents. Indeed, Oxford University were chasing the game from the start, their ability to win set-piece ball nullified by their incapacity to find ways of using it.

At least they, unlike England last weekend, resolved that particular problem. The Franco-Irish combination of Riondet and Humphreys discovered gaps in the defence that

had not seemed to exist before that interval, and the Dark Blues — hoping on this occasion to avoid a colour clash — threw caution to the wind.

They also threw a measure of possession at the Samoans, who needed no second invitation. The touring team's positive approach combined the mauling that many of their players learn in New Zealand with the natural exuberance of the Pacific islanders. Long cut-out passes gave Faaiuasoa the space to express himself and he did not waste his chances.

Matuaia, the replacement hooker after the early removal of Leiasamaiva, who needed 13 stitches in a head wound, ran like a centre to score his side's fourth try, but, for the most part, the Samoans left it to Faaiuasoa and Burns.

The Oxford lineup, with Convey recalled, earned covetous possession, yet, with only two matches before the meeting with Cambridge at Twickenham on December 12, much remains to be decided in selection, notably at back row and scrum half.

SCORES: Oxford University, 15; Western Samoans, 47. Tries: Tulele Faaiuasoa (4), Burns, Matuaia. Conversions: Burns (4). Penalties: Burns (3).

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: J. Sackey (Wicket 65 and St Edmund Hall), S. Rush (Harrow and Mansfield), Q. du Buoy (Oxford College, Cape Town and Kibaki), R. Burns (Tulip, Launceston and Mansfield), T. Hove (Barnstaple Academy and St Crisp's), M. Butler (Parramatta and St Edmund Hall), C. Norton (St Andrew's College, Grahamstown and Kibaki), K. Sackey (Continental SS, Torquay and Torquay), P. Convey (Chingwood Wood College), Mount Pearl SS, Newfoundport and Walsall; C. McCarthy (St Mary's College, Dublin and Templeton), M. Benson (Glasgow College, Cape Town and St George's), D. Burns (New College, Oxford and New College), M. O'Brien (King's Canterbury and Christ Church), R. J. M. Mangan (St Bartholomew's, Newcastle and Kibaki), temporary replacement for Sackey (St Edmund Hall), J. Sackey (Wicket 65 and St Edmund Hall), S. Rush (Harrow and Mansfield), Q. du Buoy (Oxford College, Cape Town and Kibaki), R. Burns (Tulip, Launceston and Mansfield), T. Hove (Barnstaple Academy and St Crisp's), M. 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A painful account of cruelty to animals

As far as documentaries are concerned, I hereby call for a moratorium on pet cemeteries. Scarcely a pet cemetery without a prurient camera solemnly intruding on the grief-stricken relatives gathered at a solemn grave, and hold each other up by the elbow. Remember Carrie Fisher's programme about California, with its full-blown memorial service for a dog? Each person testified in turn, and finally one of them read a poem so awful that the dog could be heard howling from beyond the grave. "These people are mad," is the obvious subtext for such images. But the weirdness is relative, and attitudes to animals change constantly. Each time a camera shows a kitty grave, even with "The Love We Shared Was Endless" inscribed upon it, an increasing proportion of the audience sniffs. "Quite right."

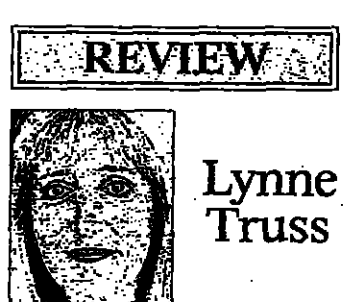
I dwell on this aspect of last

night's *Network First: Man and Animal* (ITV), because it's possibly the only bit I can bear to describe. Anthony Thomas set out to show how man, divinely ordained to have dominion over nature, eats cats in China and tortures birds in Spain. At the same time as New Yorkers sob over their dead pets, the insane are calmed by patting llamas in prison zoos, meat production and vivisection grow ever more mechanised, efficient and obscene.

It's all mad, of course, including the Jains of India, who treat sick animals but refuse to kill them when they suffer. But in the conflict between loving too much and not loving at all, Thomas's sympathies were pretty clear. Over the most horrifying shots of a Chinese cat caressed, scalded, flayed and buried ("It's still alive, it's still alive," said someone in the crew, as the camera closed in on the pale, skinned cat gaping in the water),

Thomas's commentary was "Oh what a piece of work is man". *Man and Animal* visited both ends of the cruelty spectrum but the general level of horror rarely dropped. Thomas looked at the transgenic pig, the sophisticated American pet hospitals (into which sick human beings are sometimes smuggled, to get the benefit of expensive equipment) and a monkey trained to slave for a quadriplegic. He suggests that the issue of animal cruelty will put us all apart, in time. It certainly pulled me apart last night.

The perils of excess were rather the fashion yesterday but, on the other hand, can you have too much of a good thing? Channel 4's *Without Walls* contained an entertaining segment on the Roman orgy, and suggested that the familiar bubbling-chalice-wobbling-buttock thing may have been blown out of all proportion by



Lynne Truss

early Hollywood and Fellini's *Satyricon*. True, the Romans did eat eyeballs and dormice, and smother the whole lot in a sauce derived from rotting anchovies. But it's a vicious myth that they went outside to vomit. Which is odd, because after eyeballs and dormice, vomiting would be the natural thing to do.

Food historians and orgy specialists sat around on marble slabs

garlanded by voluptuous grapes, and described the one-upmanship of Roman dinner parties. The true orgy was a secret Bacchic ritual, and the Western world got confused about the orgy-dinner party distinction because of the mischievous satirist Petronius. Later on, painters such as Rubens and Titian stuck their car in; then in the 19th century, old Alma-Tadema had another shot at it. The result, sad to say, was Cecil B. De Mille's *Quintus*.

Nowadays the appeal of the Roman orgy is that it simply represents the depravity of foreigners, with sex, food and cruelty on a long leash. Back at the average Roman dinner party, however, wine was not taken until after the meal, when it was mixed with sea water (an early form of aversion therapy?). The most exotic thing on the table was usually a fish. It makes you almost feel sorry for

them. When time travel is finally invented, we should send the Ancient Romans some After Eight's.

When does a hobby become an obsession? When does an addiction to orgies, for instance, start interfering with your marriage? That's what the Romans wanted to know, and so did Esther Rantzen yesterday afternoon (Esther, BBC2), although mainly her guests were train-spotters and engine restorers, not lascivious Romans who could never get enough of peacocks. One of Esther's guests collected toy robots; another made pictures out of old stamps. Meanwhile, wives and partners fumed impotently at their side.

How to make a programme out of such solipsists in anoraks was an obvious challenge, but Esther chirruped in her usual way. "Was he like this when you married him?" she would ask, and get a

nervous laugh. But at the heart of the discussion was a truly unhappy couple torn apart, not by a hobby, but by a vocation. The husband spent his evenings training air force cadets - which is rather different from filling a house with needles or refusing to watch anything save Dr Who.

But this man was attacked as selfish, nonetheless. When he tried to object that he was helping people, Esther put a stop to such mutinous talk at once. "Nobody's denying the value of the work," she snapped. The wife, meanwhile, said she would never make him choose; but trapped by bad feeling in the studio, he agreed to stand down from command. "You will?" said Esther, delighted. "The environment brought it home to me," he said. You bet it did. But why didn't Esther work on the necktie man instead? As any Chinese cat will tell you, there really is no fairness in this world.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (70984)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (94482919)
 - 9.10 Kilroy (s) (4015087)
 - 10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5479938)
 - 10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (5580241)
 - 10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (4373754)
 - 12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9467990) 12.05pm Pebble Mill. Ross King introduces an Anthony Newley Special (s) (4530938) 12.50 Regional News and weather (2320980)
 - 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (31754)
 - 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (9263037) 1.50 Hawkeye (s) (5401464) 2.35 Holiday (r) (Ceefax) (s) (2347551) 3.05 Incongruity (s) (1861803)
 - 3.30 Ants in Your Pants (s) (5366648) 3.50 Chucklevision (r) (s) (5273984) 4.10 Get Your Own Back (Ceefax) (s) (6084735) 4.35 The Queen's Nose with Wilcox and Stephen Moore (Ceefax) (s) (1623377)
 - 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (9454483) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (6188884)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (255648)
 - 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (735)
 - 6.30 Regional News Magazine (777)
 - 7.00 This is Your Life. Michael Aspel surprises another worthy (Ceefax) (s) (6396)



Sue Lawley heads the team (7.30pm)

- 7.30 Here and Now. Sue Lawley and the team present stories and questions on the subjects that matter in our daily lives (s) (241)
- 8.00 Paul Daniels' Secrets. The magician, assisted by his wife Debbie McGee, is joined by Ruth Madoc, Nicholas Night, Mike Caveney and jugglers Sabrina Fackell and Gena Kiki (Ceefax) (s) (586648)
- 8.50 Points of View. Anne Robinson presents more viewers' opinions on television programmes (Ceefax) (s) (617445)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5261)
- 9.30 One Foot in the Grave: Love and Death. Victor and Margaret head off for a weekend at the seaside. True to form, it proves to be anything but restful. With Richard Wilson and Annette Crosbie (Ceefax) (s) (87532)
- 10.00 Sportsnight. Highlights of this evening's FA Cup Premiership match between Coventry City and Manchester United, and all the news from a busy evening of football. Plus action from the WBC light-midweight fight between Paul "Silky" Jones and Verno Phillips (s) (783174)
- 11.40 FILM: Assassination (1987) starring Charles Bronson and Jill Ireland. A free-wheeling First Lady is determined to live life in the fast lane, causing headaches for the secret service veteran assigned to protect her. However, after a couple of assassination attempts she is at last persuaded that her life is in danger. In fact, a White House insider has ordered her death. Directed by Peter Hunt (Ceefax) (230208) 1.05 Weather (3071491)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Technology Season
 - 7.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax) (4636071)
 - 7.15 Lasse (5816434) 7.40 The Legend of Prince Valiant (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1941754)
 - 8.05 It'll Never Work (r) (Ceefax) (s) (3175990)
 - 8.35 The Record (s) (4958174)
 - 9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (9836367)
 - 2.00 Johnson and Friends (s) (4778716) 2.10 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased) (r) (8662613) 3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather. Westminster With Nick Ross (7828222) 3.55 News (Ceefax) and weather (6564648)
 - 4.00 Today's the Day. History quiz (700)
 - 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (984)
 - 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. A mother talks about her son's plan to murder her (4315261)
 - 5.40 Unspeakable Verse (246025)
 - 6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. Science-fiction adventure series starring Patrick Stewart. (Ceefax) (s) (140174)
 - 6.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century: Space Vampire. A galactic creature which steals souls and turns people into walking zombies targets Col Wilma Deering as his next victim (r) (744208)
 - 7.30 Top Gear Rally Blast. Live coverage of the climax of the Network Q RAC Rally, introduced by Steve Lee. Tony Mason talks to the winner and Barrie Gill and Ivan Gaskell report on the highlights of the past four days (s) (613)

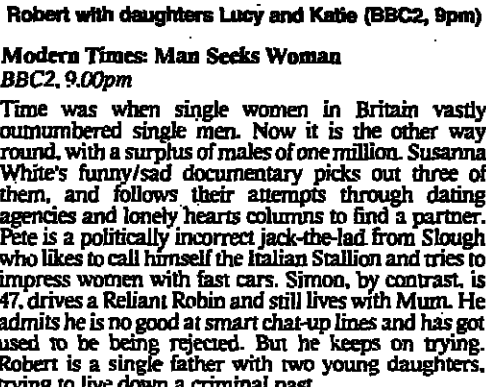


Coping with war-time rationing (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Slice of Life: Rations and Roly Poly. (Ceefax) (s) (8218)
- 8.30 University Challenge presented by Jeremy Paxman. Surrey University meet John Moores, Liverpool. (Ceefax) (s) (2193)
- 9.00 Modern Times: Man Seeks Woman. (Ceefax) (s) (230483)
- 9.50 My Secret Life: A Priest's Tale. (Ceefax) (s) (888483)
- 10.00 Grace Under Fire: A Night at the Opera. American comedy series. (Ceefax) (52621)
- 10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (243822)
- 11.15 The Art Marathon. The amateur art buffs from London have amassed a weird and wonderful collection to choose from for their own exhibition (s) (286358)
- 11.55 Weather (719884)
- 12.00 The Midnight Hour With Andrew Neil. Political chat show (s) (20859)
- 12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. These numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder remotely with a remote control, are listed next to the programme title. For more details on the Video PlusCode system, see the Video PlusCodes section on page 48. For more details on the Video PlusCode system, see the Video PlusCodes section on page 48. For more details on the Video PlusCode system, see the Video PlusCodes section on page 48.

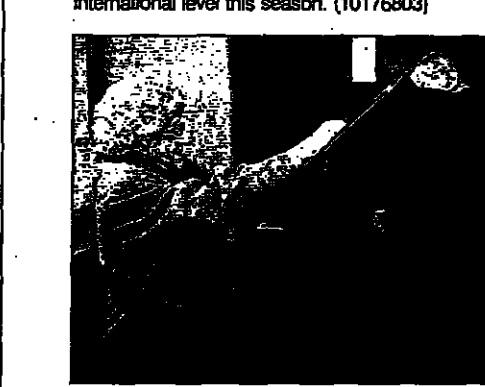
- CHOICE**
- Slice of Life: Rations and Roly Poly** BBC2, 8.00pm
Another of those excursions into social history that work so well on television charts the changing face of British food. We start in the Second World War when the Government introduced rationing and set up the Ministry of Food to administer it. To a well-meaning desire to share limited resources and improve the nation's diet was added a strong dose of Whitehall nannying. The working class, in particular, were thought to need advice on what they should eat. This led to a bizarre scheme under which miners were forced to take food underground in Thermos flasks. Marguerite Patten, the cookery writer, and Baroness Castle, both of whom worked at the Ministry of Food, are among those offering first-hand accounts.



Robert with daughters Lucy and Katie (BBC2, 9pm)

- Modern Times: Man Seeks Woman** BBC2, 9.00pm
Time was when single women in Britain vastly outnumbered single men. Now it is the other way round, with a surplus of males of one million. Susanna White's funny/sad documentary picks out three of them, and follows their attempts through dating agencies and lonely hearts columns to find a partner. Pete is a politically incorrect jack-the-lad from Slough who likes to call himself the Italian Stallion and tries to impress women with fast cars. Simon, by contrast, is 47, drives a Reliant Robin and still lives with Mum. He admits he is no good at smart chat-up lines and has got used to being rejected. But he keeps on trying. Robert is a single father with two young daughters, trying to live down a criminal past.
- The Real Holiday Show** Channel 4, 8.30pm
It is a moot point whether television should be showing holidays as the actually are or the fantasy version as portrayed by Jill Dando and Judith Chalmers. The viewing figures suggest an overwhelming preference for make-believe, but the real thing is arguably more interesting. Tonight's selection includes a trip to The Gambia to see her daughter by a middle-aged woman who has recently divorced. We follow Dolores and Julie, two feisty young girls servants from Northern Ireland, as they sail to New York on the QE2. But the most touching item is about Bill and Lil, both in their seventies and both widowed, who sustain their friendship through regular holidays in magical Blackpool.
- My Secret Life: A Priest's Tale** BBC2, 9.50pm
In a coda to the film *Priest* shown on Saturday, we hear the story of Stephen, a Roman Catholic priest who has found the teaching of his Church by not only abandoning celibacy but having relationships with other men. He uses the anonymity guaranteed by this series to speak honestly about the tension between his sexuality and his calling and how he has tried to square the two. He reckons he is a good priest and wants to continue in the job. At the same time the pressures of loneliness have forced him to seek a partner. But he may not be able to maintain the double life much longer and reckons that it may be better to be hated for what you are than loved for what you are not.

- CARLTON**
- 6.00am GMTV (9719377)
 - 9.25 Supermarket Sweep Quiz (s) (9086261)
 - 9.55 London Today (Teletext) (1240)H4
 - 10.35 This Morning presented by Alison Keenan and Stephen Rhoads (7238613)
 - 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (9483174)
 - 12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (9483838)
 - 12.55 Home and Away. (Teletext) (9488829) 1.25 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (9209477) 1.55 Shortland Street (9268832) 2.20 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (7087261)
 - 2.50 Material World: The Picture of my Life. An innocent dinner party becomes a source of temptation (3288833)
 - 3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (8547919)
 - 3.25 London Today (Teletext) (8338980)
 - 3.30 Alphabet Castle (s) (5492984) 3.40 Wizards: Watch Out Below (s) (6767445) 3.50 Animapalooza (r) (Teletext) (s) (5496700) 4.05 TIGS (s) (8548087)
 - 4.35 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (1618445)
 - 5.00 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (3120990)
 - 5.15 London Tonight (Teletext) (8335006)
 - 5.25 Champions League Live: Spartak Moscow v Blackburn Rovers. The English title holders are out of the competition, but a victory over group leaders, Spartak Moscow, in Russia today would help to lift some of the gloom which has descended on British football after so many disappointments at international level this season. (10176803)



Phyllis (Jill Summers) hits out (7.30pm)

- 7.30 Coronation Street. The flasher claims his latest victim (Teletext) (867)
- 8.00 FILM: Cless Action (1991) starring Gene Hackman, May Elizabeth Meestrom and Colin Fiske. An unusual twist, father and daughter lawyers on opposite sides of a court case, but otherwise a mediocre and slow-moving film which does not easily into sentimentality. Directed by Michael Apted. (Teletext) (s) (5795)
- 10.00 ITN News at Ten and weather (Teletext)
- 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext)
- 10.40 007... The Return. Manilla Frostup meets the new James Bond, Pierce Brosnan, as well as co-stars Alan Cumming, Sean Bean and Robbie Coltrane, at the premiere of Goldeneye (s) (437290)
- 11.40 Champions League Highlights. To qualify for the quarter-final stage, Glasgow Rangers must beat Romanian champions Steaua Bucharest at Ibrox tonight (815008)
- 12.45am The Little Picture Show (2897014)
- 1.50 The Album Show featuring Luvu Vancore (s) (1776588)
- 2.50 Hollywood Report (s) (5886236)
- 3.15 America's Top Ten (r) (s) (37512439)
- 3.40 On the Live Side. Music for jazz fans (s) (1411526) 3.45 Sport AM (r) (4806236)
- 4.35 McGilloway's Way (8681588)
- 5.00 Vanessa (r) (Teletext) (s) (82236)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News (18014). Ends at 6.00

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.35am Heathcliff. Cartoon series (r) (5283764)
 - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (21377)
 - 7.00 The Golden Girls. (r) (Teletext) (s) (63464)
 - 9.30 Schools: Good Health (4502377) 9.45 Book Box (4505332) 10.00 Stage Two Science (2489716) 10.15 Making Sense of Science (317748) 10.45 Your World (1370629) 10.55 Film Showcase (8139236) 11.07 Schools at Work (7014483) 11.15 The Mix (948754) 11.30 Rat-a-Tat-Tat (4843209) 11.45 First Edition (4831464) (151990)
 - 12.00 House to House. Political magazine (70700)
 - 12.30pm Sesame Street with Bill Irwin (36551) 1.30 Lift Off (r) (s) (89377)
 - 2.00 Australia Wild. The wildlife of Oz (s) (8990)
 - 2.30 Pete Smith Specialities: In Case You're Curious (s) (618613)
 - 2.40 FILM: Challenger (1990). The conclusion of the made-for-television drama about the lives of the crew members in the months before the ill-fated launch. Directed by Glenn Jordan (7287484)
 - 4.00 Think Tank. Team quiz (Teletext) (s) (396)
 - 4.30 Fifteen to One. (Teletext) (s) (280)
 - 5.00 Rick Lake. A discussion on daughters who abuse their parents (Teletext) (s) (2548303)
 - 5.45 Terrytoons (519483)
 - 6.00 My So-Called Life. (Teletext) (s) (49875)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News. Includes headlines and weather at 7.30 (Teletext) (771731)
 - 7.55 The Slot. Viewers' video soapbox (316919)
 - 8.00 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (8754)



The Armstrongs go to The Gamble (8.30pm)

- 8.30 The Real Holiday Show. (Teletext) (s) (7261)
- 9.00 Dispatches. (Teletext) (7735)
- 10.00 Northern Exposure: Mite Makes Right. Off-beat American comedy. (Teletext) (s) (355532)
- 10.55 Rory Bremner - Who Else? (s) (682358)
- 11.35 Moviematch (r) (Teletext) (s) (881551)
- 12.10am-3.25 The Shooting Gallery. Tonight's theme is Future Dread, films that explore our fears of the future, beginning with The Beast. A courtroom drama raising questions about human responsibility and animal rights (r) (6247033) 12.30 Rose Red, Violent Blue. A science-fiction thriller (s) (1017423)
- 12.50 The Hunger Artist. A drama based on a Kafka short story about a journalist who goes in search of an artist who starves himself to earn a living (s) (6087743) 1.40 The Persistence of Memory. A scientist enters an unstable computer simulation (8470235) 2.10 Greenfield. A young boy eagerly awaits his birthday (1982536)
- 2.20 The Sudden Walk. An exploration of human isolation as a man retreats deeper and deeper into a private universe (1722694) 2.45 Small War. A small boy finds a deadly weapon that, when activated, will cause a catastrophe (2724303) 3.00 Tomorrow Calling. The story of a photographer haunted by images of the future (r) (61567725)
- 3.10 Gail. A Short and snappy look out a young woman (Penny Gonslow) who is stressed by the pressures of urban life (3743526). Ends at 3.55
- 4.00-5.40 Schools: The Spanish Programme (255656)

- VARIATIONS**
- ANGLIA**
As London except: 12.55 Coronation Street (9488291) 1.25 Home and Away (9204777) 1.55-2.25 Country Practice (9206262) 2.30-3.00 Gardening Time (2328803) 4.35 Tiny Toon Adventures (1618445) 5.00 Warner Cartoon (903651) 5.10 Shortland Street (9206262) 5.20 Home and Away (72358) 5.25 Ant & Dec (9488291) 5.30 Ant & Dec (9488291) 5.35 Ant & Dec (9488291) 5.40 Ant & Dec (9488291) 5.45 Ant & Dec (9488291) 5.50 Ant & Dec (9488291) 5.55 Ant & Dec (9488291) 6.00 Ant & Dec (9488291) 6.05 Ant & Dec (9488291) 6.10 Ant & Dec (9488291) 6.15 Ant & Dec (9488291) 6.20 Ant & Dec (9488291) 6.25 Ant & Dec (9488291) 6.30 Ant & Dec (9488291) 6.35 Ant & Dec (9488291) 6.40 Ant & Dec (9488291) 6.45 Ant & Dec (9488291) 6.50 Ant & Dec (9488291) 6.55 Ant & Dec (9488291) 7.00 Ant & Dec (9488291) 7.05 Ant & Dec (9488291) 7.10 Ant & Dec (9488291) 7.15 Ant & Dec (9488291) 7.20 Ant & Dec (9488291) 7.25 Ant & Dec (9488291) 7.30 Ant & Dec (9488291) 7.35 Ant & Dec (9488291) 7.40 Ant & Dec (9488291) 7.45 Ant & Dec 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DUNWOODY PROVES
HIS WORTH IN
FIGHT TO FINISH

SPORT

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 22 1995

SHOULD ENGLAND
FOLLOW SOUTH
AFRICA'S EXAMPLE?

Title-chasing Scot dominates third day to erase rival's advantage

McRae rallies to recapture lead

By OLIVER HOIT

COLIN McRAE took the third day of the Network Q RAC Rally by storm yesterday. He shrugged off two more punctures and burst through thick fog to set the fastest time on six of the day's seven stages, obliterating the overnight lead held by Carlos Sainz, his team-mate. If he maintains his advantage over the Spaniard on the final day today, he will become Great Britain's first world rally champion.

Throughout the day, Sainz seemed almost complacent about the huge inroads that his rival was making into his 39-second lead. McRae was going so much faster than him that the double world champion assumed that he must be taking absurd risks in his desperation to close the gap

DETAILS

OVERALL POSITIONS after 21 stages: 1. C McRae and D Ringer (GB, Subaru) 4hr 57min; 2. C Sainz and L Moya (Sp, Subaru) 4:58.57; 3. R Burri and B Head (GB, Subaru) 4:59.45; 4. B Hay and S Prevost (Bel, Ford) 4:59.46; 5. A McRae and Wood (GB, Ford) 4:59.56; 6. A Neuen and R Casazza (It, Toyota) 4:59.58; 7. G Evans and H Davies (GB, Ford) 4:59.58; 8. J Kivimäki and A Kapanen (Fin, Nissan) 4:59.59.

Today's stages
Stage 22 - Porthmorg: 9.58 miles
Stage 23 - Tyl: 14.52
Stage 24 - Borthmorg: 9.16
Stage 25 - Porthmorg South: 8.36
Stage 26 - Porthmorg North: 6.28
Stage 27 - Clonsing West: 3.75
Stage 28 - Clonsing East: 12.05

between them. At the end of every stage, Sainz waited for news of a mistake from his pursuer — but the mistake never came.

McRae saved his best for last, too. He had drawn to within five seconds of Sainz going into the last stage at Sweetlamb Hafren and, as darkness fell, he produced an unmatchable dash through the Welsh forests. It beat Sainz's time by 22 seconds, hurrying the Scot into the overall lead for the first time since punctures and suspension damage dealt a setback to his hopes on Monday morning.

There was only one blip in McRae's progress, on stage 17, one of Sainz's favourites, when the Spaniard was quicker by two seconds. McRae just redoubled his charge and left even Luis Moya, the Span-



McRae's Subaru forces up plumes of spray as he powers through the Hafren Sweetlamb stage in Wales yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

iard's co-driver, in awe. "Our only problem is Colin McRae," he said. "Carlos is going as fast as he can. We could go a little faster, but I don't think we'd come out the other side."

The two Subaru Impreza

drivers are up there on their own now, more than five minutes ahead of Richard Burri, the third-placed driver, also in a Subaru, and alone with their actormony.

Their duel is fired not just by the quest for the championship, but by the bitterness that surrounded the team's decision to force McRae to come second to his team-mate in the Catalonian Rally last month.

Both men had 70 points going into this, the final round, and now only seven Welsh stages stand between them and triumph or defeat. The early exit of Kenneth Eriksson, the Mitsubishi driver, who came to grief in a water-filled gully, all but guaranteed the Subaru team the manufacturers' championship to go with the drivers' title

already destined for McRae or Sainz.

Despite Sainz's interpretation of his charge, McRae seemed calm and relaxed yesterday, expressing surprise that he was chipping away so easily at his rival's lead. Reports of his mood filtering back from Wales to rally headquarters in Chester were punctuated with talk of enjoying his breakfast and allowing himself "a little sleep" before his final push.

"I'm quite happy," he said. "I've had a good day all round and thoroughly enjoyed the last stage. It's given me a good lead for tomorrow. I'll see what happens on the first couple of stages in the morning and then maybe I'll be able to go a bit slower. I certainly hope so. I don't think we'll have to attack quite so hard

tomorrow because I don't think Carlos will get back in front now."

"I'm feeling very tired now but trying not to think about the world championship at the moment. I just want to win this rally. The conditions have been incredibly slippery today, but I have not been taking any chances, whatever anyone else might think. The stages this morning were very difficult, but I have been driving well within my limits and I'm surprised that my times are so much quicker than anyone else's."

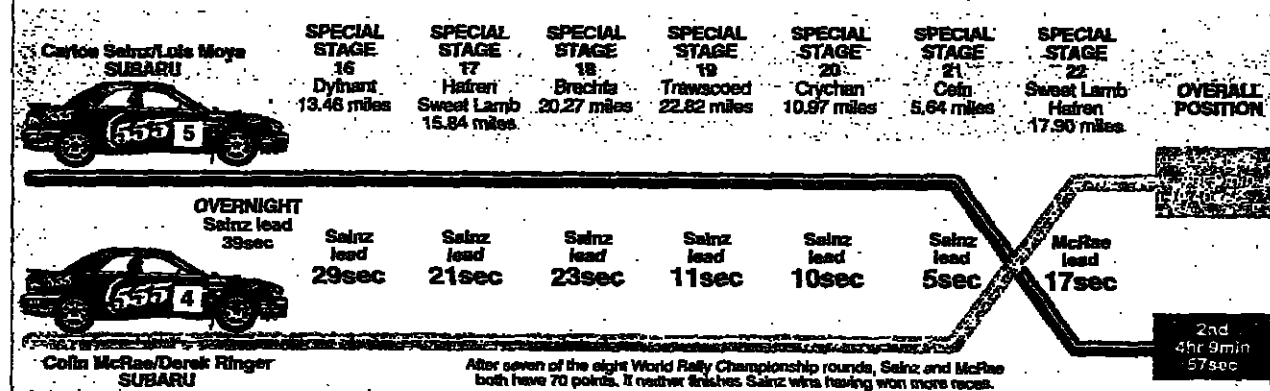
McRae, 27, who became the first Briton to win his home rally for 18 years when he triumphed last year, is now firmly on course to be the first to claim it two years in succession. The stages today, though, are notoriously

treacherous and steady rain has made them heavy with mud. Sainz crashed out of the rally on the final day last year, but, this year, he seems dispirited already.

The Spaniard, who was world champion in 1990 and 1992, was drained by the hunt, dismayed at being forced into the unfamiliar role of quarry. "I didn't enjoy that one," he said bleakly, after his advantage had finally been snatched away from him.

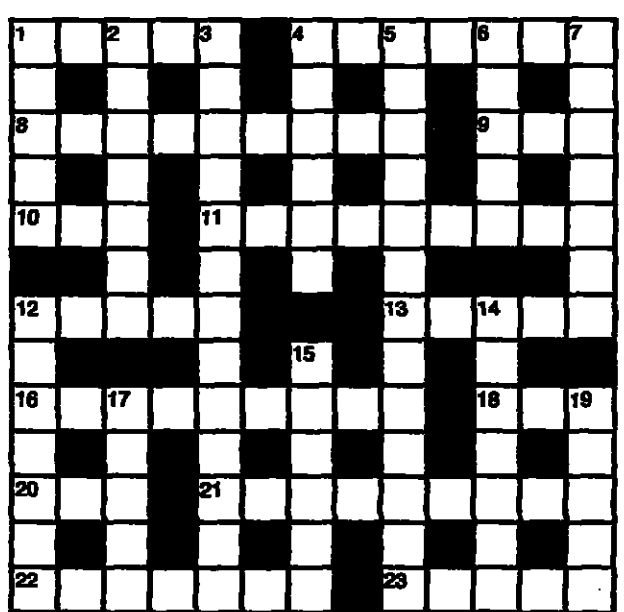
"I have no strategy now. There's a lot of pressure but c'est la vie. I kept thinking maybe Colin would make a mistake, but he didn't. I'll see if I can pull the lead back tomorrow, but I'm trying the absolute maximum. I can do no more. I do not know where Colin is getting the time from."

HOW McRAE REGAINED THE LEAD IN THE NETWORK Q RAC RALLY



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 633



ACROSS

- 1 Porter, fat (5)
- 4 Unreliable, irregular (7)
- 8 Raising (9)
- 9 Snake; stole (3)
- 10 A long way (3)
- 11 Supporting structure (9)
- 12 Obsessive; overexcited (5)
- 13 Sphere; Shak. theatre (5)
- 16 Of insurance-risk statistics etc (9)
- 18 Tiny bit (3)
- 20 (Piece for) two players (3)
- 21 Criminal ruffian (9)
- 22 Period of George III's madness (7)
- 23 Bumpkin (5)

DOWN

- 1 Tied bundle (5)
- 2 Go too far, go on too long (7)
- 3 Meter maid (7,6)
- 4 Baal-defeating prophet; Mendelssohn oratorio (6)
- 5 Mug shot collection (6,7)
- 6 Ritually forbidden (5)
- 7 Loud rustle (of eg fire, new banknotes) (7)
- 12 Take mazy path (7)
- 14 Aussie hinterland (7)
- 15 Looks on unconcerned (4,2)
- 17 Leather strip for tying (5)
- 19 Slaver (5)

SOLUTION TO No 632

ACROSS: 1 Miss the boat 8 Henry 9 Fairrest 10 Isle 11 Trencher 13 Master 14 Sacred 17 Tattered 19 Drum 20 Purcell 23 Abbey 24 Westminster
DOWN: 1 Mahdi 2 Singles 3 Toys 4 Effort 5 Oriental 6 Teeth 7 Stored 12 Referees 13 Menopae 15 Rarebit 16 Bedlam 18 Throw 20 Mayor 21 Pawn

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD NO 628

ACROSS: 6 Greensleeves 7 Tinpot 8 Gambol 9 Rear 10 Pot-au-feu 12 Caryatid 16 Alec 18 Shocco 20 Virgin 21 Stuffed shirt
DOWN: 1 Jeopardy 2 In/step 3 Slight 4 Germ 5 Revolve 6 Cruise 11 Unafraid 13 Astute 14 Trowel 15 Devise 17 Edict 19 Cafe

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is A Steven, Eddleston, Peebles.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is P A Guy, Sutton, Surrey. All flights subject to availability.

England A rest after six of the best

Pat Gibson on the all-conquering cricket team causing envy on the sub-continent

Some of them ventured into the Punjab countryside to hunt for wild boar; some discovered a golf course inside the military compound; a few just sprawled around their hotel rooms and listened to what Princess Diana had to say on the BBC's world television channel.

The England A cricket team were finding whatever pursuit they could after being given a well-earned break after almost a month in Pakistan that has brought them six wins in six matches, the most significant of them victory by an innings and 43 runs in little more than three days in the first of the three "Tests" against Pakistan A.

It would not be strictly accurate to say that they are in rude health as they swallow their anti-malaria pills and enjoy the occasional bouts of turbulence that affect even the

strongest constitutions on the sub-continent, but English cricket seems to be on the evidence of this tour.

This side was not considered to be as strong as the ones which did so well on the past two A tours, to South Africa and India, and produced more than half of the players in the England squad in South Africa, but, under the inspirational leadership of Nasser Hussain and the shrewd guidance of John Embury, it is continuing the success story.

Six of the side — Gallian, Knight, Salisbury, Udall, White and Hussain — have already played either Test or one-day international cricket and their experience has been invaluable; others, like

McGrath, Headley, Piper and Iran, look as though they could do one day.

The English way of developing players that was the subject of so much soul-searching when England were losing in Australia a year ago is the envy of Pakistan, who have seen their own Test side disintegrate recently.

Sadiq Mohammad, who played in 41 Tests and well after his 12 seasons with Gloucestershire, watched the first international match as closely as anybody in his role as match referee and was struck by the gulf between the sides.

"Your boys are so much more knowledgeable and bet-

ter prepared than ours," he said. "They are professional cricketers, a lot of whom have been playing county cricket for five or six years, and they are benefiting from having former Test cricketers as their coaches."

"Having someone like John Embury in charge makes a lot of difference. The experience he gives them, the thought he puts into their cricket, means that, although they come from different counties, they still play in a very united manner."

Sadiq, who, for all his experience, has never been asked to coach his country's players at any level, was making a political point, as Pakistanis invariably do when they start talking about cricket; but it was a valid one, for all that.

Munton's call, page 45
Donald rested, page 45

Funds released to get public playing tennis

By STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

AS PROSPECTS improve, at the top of the men's game at least, so the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is to broaden the appeal and the facilities at the other end of the scale. The governing body is to invest £25 million over the next five years in nurturing the grass roots.

In a scheme described as "the most radical change in the history of British tennis", the LTA is to establish 450 new or refurbished centres spread evenly across the country. To be known as "community clubs", they will make fuller use of courts that are either unavailable or neglected.

A video, shown yesterday during the official announcement of the project, illustrated one aspect of the scruffier perception of the game. A message, scrawled in chalk near a run-down facility, warned: "Moss killer on courts. Please wash hands after play."

Research has revealed that, although six million people play tennis every year, only 250,000 do so regularly. Club courts are often empty during the week and oversubscribed at weekends. The imbalance is to be addressed.

In co-operation with parks, schools, local authorities and county associations, the LTA is to offer more than financial support. At each of the 450 selected community clubs, two officials will be present, one working full-time and the other on a part-time basis.

"We want the energy for change to come not from us in our ivory towers," Ian Peacock, the chief executive of the LTA, said, "but from the county associations. We want to encourage a new approach and eradicate the image of tennis being exclusively a middle-class sport."

A significant criterion, to be met before a club will receive any resources, promises to prompt youngsters to participate. A proportion of the courts must be made available for juniors. One aim is to coach at least one million schoolchildren by 2001.

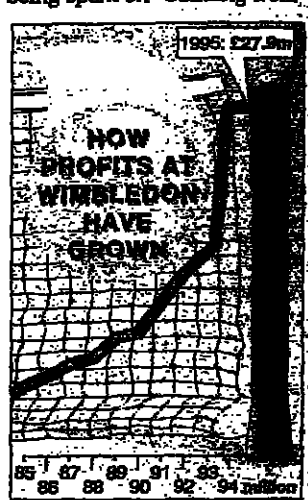
That is the long-term plan. The shortest route to elevating the stature of tennis would be for several domestic players to break into the highest echelons of the world rankings and for the Davis Cup team to regain its place among the elite. The objectives are linked and optimism is well-founded.

Peacock said that more than £1 million was lost in sponsorship as a direct result of the Davis Cup defeat at home to Romania last year. "Within the last nine or ten months, more interest has been shown," he said, "and if Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman continue as they are doing, the effect will be massive."

Rusedski's inaugural appearance at the national championships coincided with the first sell-out crowds at Telford.

He is the world No 38 and Henman, with a timely surge, has won all but one of his past 19 matches to lift himself into the top 100.

"They are doing their job. So, belatedly, some might say, is the LTA, but the level of its commitment should be kept in perspective. The amount being spent on 'building from



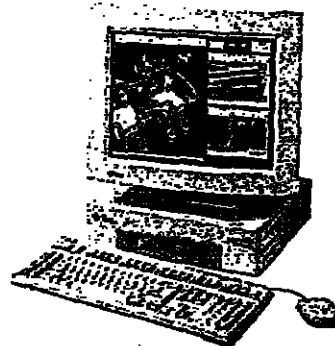
the bottom up" over the next five years is less than the £27.9 million profits that were generated by the Wimbledon championships in a fortnight last summer.

Monica Seles has withdrawn from the United States team to play Spain in the final of the Fed Cup this weekend. The reason given was the recurrent knee injury that has prevented her from competing since she lost to Steffi Graf in the final of the US Open in September.

She has not performed on clay, the surface on which the final will be staged in Valencia, since being stabbed in Hamburg almost three years ago. Although Seles will not have appeared in the Fed Cup, her selection for the squad renders her eligible to represent the United States in the Olympic Games next year.

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